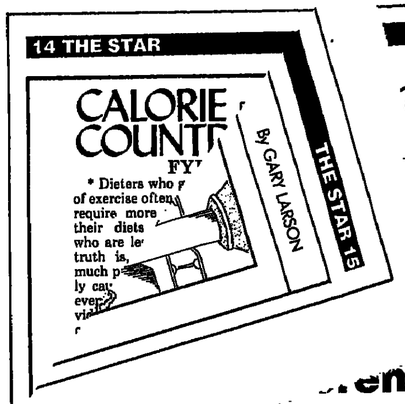
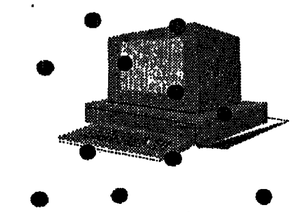


COMPUTER COMPANIES

★ If you have any computer news and activities you would like to tell our readers about, Fax us on 648298 or write to PO Box 9313 Amman.

...s identify ...ent viruses



...ODY HAS had his fair ...are of computer virus blues. For several years now, viruses have managed to be a prime cause of big network breakdowns, loss of mass data and even the simple halt of a video game when you're getting a high score.

If finding one of the 500 hundred viruses is not hard enough, you face the challenge of destroying the virus or viruses on a disk without losing your entire data base. It's not a pleasant thought, yet one American company is trying to make the life of computer-lovers a tad easier.

X-tree Co. has released a database programme containing information on all the known viruses and it can identify them whether present in memory or on disk and kill them by holding a file containing information on each one. If the programme is not sure whether or not it is dealing with a virus, it creates an imaginary file used to check out this alien data. If it is a virus, the programme erases the imaginary file and adds a new one containing information on this new found virus and uses this information to kill it. Sounds unbelievable, doesn't it? This data base programme even has total immunity to viruses since it contains six different programmes which act as a backup to one another in case of viral attack. If one programme is infected, the other five seek out the virus and kill it allowing the programme to function properly again. If anybody out there has or gets this miracle software package, please inform us and our readers.

Virus killers and protectors alike, range from very simple to very complicated. When viruses first burst out, they simply occupy certain sectors of a virus-free disk. This contamination could be removed easily by programmes that would write "clean" data on these infected sectors, which came to be known as virus killers. This is where headaches begin. Different types of viruses occupy different parts of the disk they infect and, maybe even, several parts of the same disks. This, of course, means that we would definitely need different virus killers to handle the different viruses.

Another point to be remember is that viruses can totally corrupt data and that killing the virus does not necessarily restore this data. In other words, very few killers manage to get the job done without leaving behind messages like, " this disk is now corrupt".

This is where automatically seeking out the virus and killing it by the system comes in handy, not to mention the installation of a protection automatically too.

Still, considering that experts are always finding new computer viruses and since computer geniuses seem to be challenging each other to create the most devastating virus, this dilemma appears to be with us for a long time. Surely, it could be the typo of thing books are written about and science fiction films attempt to dramatize. Remember, you read it here first. ■

NIS: It is here

YOU MAY have come across a small orange pamphlet discussing the setting up of a 'national information system' or NIS.

The NIS has not become completely functional yet. But, it is intended by the government supposed to "to coordinate information with branch administrators, to prepare and classify information in forms and within frameworks appropriate for processing analysis according to the requirements of the beneficiaries through the NIS communication network and constraints and consultations agreed upon with the central administration. The NIS will, furthermore, build up databases and offer consultations to researchers and beneficiaries by pointing them towards potential sources of information."

In other words, information should become at hand to everybody using a computer within the network. The information will come in handy and can be kept on a disk or printed out. The basic idea is to create an electronic data bank capable of providing desired information quickly rather than spend so much time looking into files and books on the required topic. Still the use of the NIS is restricted at the moment, until the completion of the system's installation and development.

The central administration of the system is housed in the Royal Scientific Society (RSS) responsible for information on science and technology and the Ministry of Planning responsible for the socio-economic information in this project. These two centres are connected to ministries and establishments, universities and research centres and the private sector on the one side as well as the Royal Court and the Prime Ministry on the other. Of course, these two centres receive their information from various sources and the information is gathered in such a way that it comprehensively covers all socio-economic and scientific needs.

Upon visiting the Royal Scientific Society and being given a tour by the head of the computer department Mr Hussien Al-Qawasmi, you find giant mainframe machines in the central computer room. These are considered the brain of the national information system for socio-economic data.

This national information system is a serious project which will help Jordan move into the information age. The government is serious about it and is supporting it financially with the belief that preparing and conveying information is vital for the development of the country. Let's hope the NIS project is con-

Ideal Systems holds Apple Day

■ **Ideal Systems invites you, your family and friends to the second annual Apple Day on Friday, October 4th from 11 am to pm at their premises. They are offering special prices on software, hardware, books and accessories, as well as holding interesting seminars and raffles. But their main attraction is the Apple Cafe Trottoir where you can relax with a drink and food get to know the Ideal Team.**

Israeli youth accused of computer crime

■ ORY SHREBMAN, an 18-year-old Israeli youth, was arrested recently for several computer associated crimes and freed on bail.

He is accused of having penetrated the data centre of the American military and the data networks of various American and Canadian companies in addition to using the information obtained from his break-ins.

Using this available information, Shrebman and his contacts were able to withdraw big sums of money and buy lots of things making the credit card bearers foot the bill. Several American banks have started an investigation into the reasons behind their systems' weakness and vulnerability to trespassers. They have estimated their loses at tens of thousands of dollars.

As to classified information, Shrebman managed during the Gulf crisis, to break into the Pentagon's computer gathering information about Patriot missiles and the other weapons classified as "Top secret".

Investigators caught wind of the scheme in April 1990 in when a father in Canada walked into the room of his two teenage sons and found a pile of money stashed there. Upon asking them, they said they made the money through credit card numbers and information on the sums of money tied to these credit cards through an Israeli contact.

The father reported this incident to the police and soon after the VISA card company in Israel starting receiving information on a company called "Basic" which facilitated communication for Shrebman. The culprit was found and the police stormed his house.

Among the things the police found were six computers, 350 disks, a big power generator, a long directory of telephone numbers and a special telephone machine allowing its user to make free phone calls.

When asked whether or not he knew that he was doing something illegal, he said "I didn't see any signs saying 'no trespassers. In fact, I saw welcoming signs".

New "VSATPlus" system for networking and service

■ TO IMPROVE on conventional VSAT technology, Spar Communications Group today introduced VSATPlus; a compact, high ... satellite terminal designed to provide a complete range of data, ... fascimile and voice communications. The new VSATPlus ... fills the void between low speed VSAT systems and the need for ... compact, cost-effective system to provide a wider range of ... for business communications users.

In making the announcement at the annual Satellite Communications Users Conference, Spar Communications Group General Manager, Dr. S. S. Kamal said, "The Spar VSATPlus offers the advantages of a typical small aperture system — rapid deployment, flexible access to remote sits and distance insensitivity - plus T1 speeds, ... mesh connectivity, no costly central hub and compact, cost-effective design."

"VSAT technology provides several advantages, but there are ... networking situations in which conventional VSAT capability is ... ply not enough," said Merritt Doyle, Director of US Sales and ... keting for Spar Communications Group. "VSATPlus is for our ... tomers who need higher speeds for LAN interconnect, two-way ... conferences and high speed bulk data transfer," Doyle added. ■

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The Star
Jordan's political, economic and cultural weekly
AMMAN, 3 — 9 OCTOBER 1991, VOLUME 2, NUMBER 32 اسبوعية سياسية مستقلة

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Women journalists do better jobs, Reuters reporters say

By Mary Denis
Special To The Star



Sabbagh (left) and Arraf: Always on the scene

WHAT COMES to mind when you think of a press agency newsroom?

You probably imagine clouds of cigarette smoke, empty tea glasses, whirring computers and plenty of men doing their job of reporting and editing the news.

That is, unless you drop in at the Reuters office at the Towers Building. There, senior correspondent Jane Arraf and correspondent Rana Sabbagh are working into the night reporting events in Jordan for the British-based news service while unwittingly breaking down the stereotype that foreign correspondents and journalists in general have to be men.

While they admit they are only trying to do their job as unbiased and hard-nosed reporters, both say they feel working in a male-dominated career can have its advantages.

"Jordan is a male-oriented society," Sabbagh says. "It tends to be protective towards women. So being a woman could actually work to her advantage if she is intelligent and careful. For example, when we are exposed to danger — reporting a demonstration or a riot — the police won't beat us up, as opposed to the West."

Between the constant telephone calls and the clicking telex machine, Arraf said women can also give reporting a certain touch men are often incapable of providing.

"Being a woman, you bring different qualities into the field of journalism," says the dark-haired Arraf, herself a graduate of Carlton University in Ottawa. "Women are more open-minded than men and are more capable of getting into the heart of the matter. Perhaps, because they are more patient listeners."

That doesn't mean either reporter lets emotions get in the way of their reporting. Whether covering the tragedies at the Ruweished refugee camps during the Gulf crisis or an attack on a tourist bus in downtown Amman, both say they cover the story and examine their emotions later.

"You must be unbiased. Your personal opinion does not count," Arraf says. "You do not write a story from a political stand point. Otherwise we'll be politicians, rather than journalists. A journalist's role is just to report, not to make decisions. Our news are not opinion news. We do not get involved too much in ideology."

Sabbagh agrees saying no matter how intense, she must always keep her mind focused on the news. *She recalls her experience* when she arrived at the scene of a tourist bus attack in the summer of last year. "When I saw blood stains all over the bus, people panicking and shouting, I tried to keep cool and be as accurate and impartial as I could in my reporting," she says. "After all, the world relies on us, reporters, and we must tell it the truth."

In such a volatile country as Jordan, that coverage goes from the relaxed as in a feature on tourism at Petra to covering ongoing riots in the refugee camps.

"We are always alert to what is happening around us here and in the region, always on the go — whether covering a visit of a *head of state or writing* a report for a foreign journalist who would use our copy as a skeleton to build his story on," says Sabbagh, who speaks Arabic, English and French fluently and had studied at Beirut University College of Journalism.

Utilizing the latest technologies in telecommunications, Reuters, which was founded by Baron Paul Julius Reuter as a continental pigeon post service in Germany in 1849, has developed into one of the most advanced and competent news agency serving the world's leading media. with their constant flow of information.

Even with the advanced technology, reporting in Jordan can be nerve-wracking chore of tracking down overlooked stories and determining credible sources. In contrast to the high-profile approach taken by Western *leaders, the challenge in the* Jordan can often be to discover who is wielding the power and influencing decisions.

It is definitely harder here to figure out what is going on, especially if there is no news release,"Arraf says. "You treat anything you hear with some skepticism — you must check it out first."

As for Ms Sabbagh, she looks through all the local newspapers every morning, paying special attention to the editorials, even to ads — "they can lead you into news stories as well." The main property of news is, of course, its immediacy. Whenever a story is breaking, "I must leave everything else and be there at once," Sabbagh says.

She recalls the riots which took place in southern Jordan two years ago. She had to be there immediately cancelling all appointments for that day. In another occasion she hurried to one of the refugee camps, equipped with onions (the best remedy for tear gas, she says).

"I went to demonstrations, for example, to see for myself, to talk to people there and to report truthfully and objectively what I saw and what I heard," says the former Jordan Times reporter.

"It was a good experience for me, but working for a newspaper all you have to do is to meet dead lines."

How does that compare with working for Reuters? "Working for a news agency is an exiting job," says Sabbagh. "But it is also a very responsible and demanding task. I hardly see my family. I came into the office normally at about 9 am and carry on till the evening with no proper lunch breaks. But I feel it is really worth it."

But the job has its benefits too. Other than keeping up with what is going on and meeting important people, one gets personal *satisfaction from seeing his or* her story carried by media all over the world.

"With time you develop a sixth sense, so to speak. You just glance through and spot important items straight away," Ms Arraf explains. "The public does not want to read about the ordinary; it wants something striking," she continues.

Do they think the media promote passivity among the public, which eventually paves the way *for the media to act as a "mould"* of the public tastes and preferences.

Ms Arraf disagrees saying that the real essence of journalism is reporting accurately and objectively without taking sides. "The public chooses to make up its mind. This is what the free press is all about," she says. "People are more sophisticated than that. They do not believe everything they read, they make their own decisions. This had been proved during the Gulf War," Arraf explains. ■

Local Briefs

By Ahmad Shaker

■ **His Majesty King Hussein meet last week with all former prime ministers in Jordan and other political figures and discussed with them the present general conditions including latest political developments. On the other hand a high-level Jordanian envoy will carry a message from King Hussein to Syrian President Hafez Assad next week.**

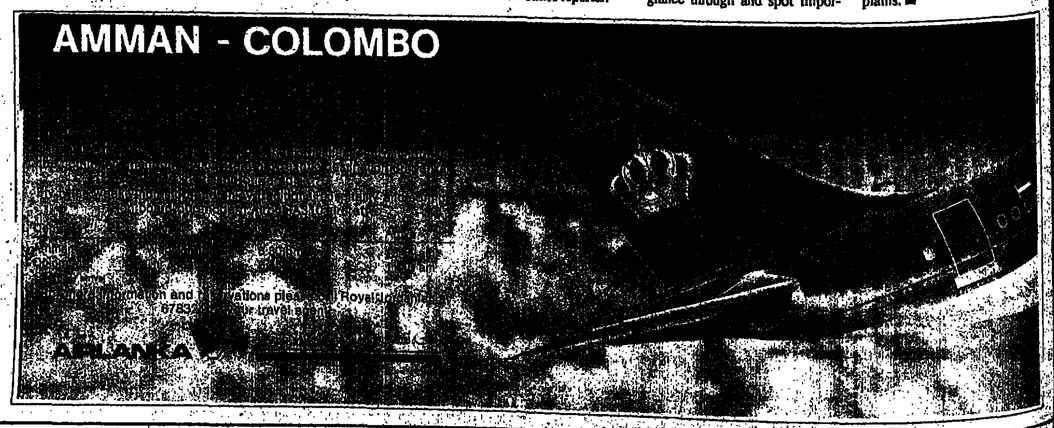
■ **The government re-shuffle, which was to take place this week, has been postponed until today, Thursday. Among those likely to join the government are Mr Marwan Dudin, Mr Marwan Hmoud, Mr Nabih Al Nimr, Sheikh Izziddin Al Khatib Al Tamimi and Mr Ahmad Abdel Karim Al Tarawneh. Four ministers have submitted their resignations. They are Minister of Awqaf Mr Raef Najim, Minister of State Mohammed Faris Al Tarwneh, Minister of Higher Education Dr Mohammed Al Hamouri and Minister of Municipalities Mr Salim Al Zoubi. Radio Monte Carlo correspondent in Amman reported Wednesday that instead of a minor re-shuffle, a major government change could be expected.**

■ **The Cabinet has approved an amendment to a grant agreement from USAID for the private sector technical assistance project (PETRA). The grant will be increased by $1 million.**

■ **Minister of Education Dr Eid Dahiayt has said that Jordan will raise the issue of returnees and the burdens incurred by Jordan as result before the general assembly meeting of UNESCO, which will convene in Paris in the middle of this month.**

■ **A Royal Decree was issued giving approval to a 200 million Belgian franc loan from the Belgian government to Jordan to back the Kingdom's balance of payment. Repayment on this 20-year loan will begin in the year 2001 at an interest of 2 per cent annually after a ten-year grace period.**

■ **Royal Jordanian (RJ) will open a new route to Jakarta, Indonesia via its present service to Kuala Lumpur and Singapore, the Star was told. RJ still plans to open a route to Toronto, Canada later this year. Negotiations are now underway between RJ and Airbus Co. on the fate of the leasing agreement between the two companies. RJ stopped payment to Airbus during the Gulf crisis.**



US veterans speak out against America's Israel policies

By Michael Casey
Star Staff Writer

IT WAS close to midnight in the Jabaliya refugee camp and the group of Americans wanted to get some air into the stuffy confines of their cramped quarters.

As they opened the window, the Palestinian family leaped up telling them to close it or soldiers on patrol might hear their voices. If they did, the house could be searched and family members brought in for questioning by Israeli authorities for engaging in political activities.

"I almost broke down in tears," said Brian Willson, an ex-captain in the United States Air Force and organizer of an eight member veterans group touring Palestine and Iraq. "Just to talk to North Americans [is considered] a political activity not allowed in [occupied] Palestine."

The late night drama was to remain with the members of the 1991 veteran's delegation as they spent 10 days touring the West Bank, Gaza Strip, Golan Heights and East Jerusalem They realized from hearing the stories of torture, watching confrontations between rock-throwing youngsters and soldiers, and seeing the economic and emotional devastation that Israeli oppression is only getting worse.

During interviews Saturday following their tour of Palestine and a two-day vigil outside the US embassy in Amman, the group said what they saw only reaffirmed their belief that the United States has been a supporter of massive human rights abuses in Israel for decades.

"The United States pours millions into Israel and what Israel does is oppress Palestinians through beatings, restrictions on travel, and the destruction of their economy," said Elizabeth Barfield, an ex-US Army sergeant who is traveling with her husband Lawrence Deems Egbert. "It's easy for many Americans to forget there are other people in Palestine. Now, we have a picture of the other side."

The veterans group said they only saw sporadic violence, but said they sensed the decades of conflict in the bitter voices of Arabs and blatant violence of the Israeli soldiers.

"My impression is that the Israelis treat the Palestinians like moral enemies and, after all, they took over the Palestinians' country," said 75-year-old Phil Roettinger, a retired US Marine Corps colonel and former CIA agent in Latin America.

"With all the hatred built up, I don't know if this conflict can ever be solved," Roettinger, now a pastor in Mexico, said. "These Israeli leaders are former terrorists and really hard-line people. I don't think they will accept any suggestions from peacemakers during a Middle East peace conference)."

A US-initiated peace conference appears to be gaining momentum after the Palestine National Council (PNC) approved Palestinian participation in such a conference Saturday. That clears the way for the United States to issue invitations to a US-Soviet sponsored conference to be held in late October. Syria, Israel, the Gulf states, Lebanon and Jordan earlier approved participation in such a conference.

Even if a peace conference is convened, the American military veterans said they see little positive results coming out of it.

"I don't have a lot of hope for a peace conference and neither did the Palestinians we talked with," said Barfield, a full-time peace activist from Texas. "It's a positive step to talk, but first the United States has to get out of the negotiations and stop aid to Israel. Then, Israel has stop encouraging the emigration of Jews from the Soviet Union."

Willson, though not as extreme, said he also saw little hope for peace unless Israel and the United States are willing to abide by international law.

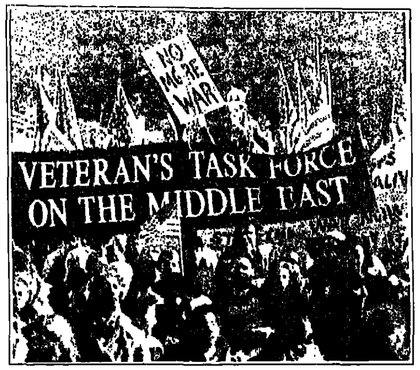
"It seems to me, if the parties involved are interested in peace, they would start off by saying they are willing to implement UN Resolutions 242 and 338 (which Israel has refused to do)," said Willson, who lost both his legs when a munitions train accelerated and ran over him during a nonviolent protest against US policies in Central America.

Willson, who has travelled with war veterans on similar fact- finding missions in El Salvador and Nicaragua, said he looks at these trips as opportunities to gain an emotional perspective into the US role in other countries.

By seeing the bodies of peasants killed in Contra attacks in Nicaragua or Israeli's aiming their guns at 12-year-old Palestinians, he sees the violence firsthand and attempts to express his anguish through peace activism. For the victims, its a chance to show there are Americans who are concerned about their fate, he added.

"I wanted to come and show the Palestinians that this occupation was so illegal, so immoral and so diabolical and that not every US citizen supports it," said the bearded Willson, who is currently working with Native American tribes in New York state.

Like Willson, all the veterans have, at sometime in their lives, turned from supporter of US aggression to constant critics of what they see as American's intervention in other countries' affairs.



US veterans protesting the Gulf War early this year

Sometimes the transformation was gradual. Egbert's realization that "America was not the center *of the universe" came about* when he was working in a rural Iranian hospital. Other times it was a revolutionary change like in the case of Willson who saw firsthand what American bombs were doing to the Vietnamese people during the Vietnam War.

"Vietnam became a major turning point in my life and what it meant to be a United States citizen," Willson said remembering his years as an US Air Force pilot protecting bombers during the war. "I was a real believer as to the United States policies. I came away from the war with a better understanding of who I *was and joined the peace move*ment against the war."

For all eight, some event forced them to look at life differently and commit themselves to peaceful activism in pursuit of social justice and the prevention of both conventional and nuclear wars. Much of their work involves getting an alternative viewpoint to the American public through protests, lectures and other educational means. In the process, their travels to countries in question helps them to better understand the conflict and express their concerns to Americans back home.

"We have to be very firm in saying: Stop all aid to Israel.... I think we can get the American people on line [with that argument] by giving eyewitness accounts of the oppression," said Roettinger, referring to the pro-Israeli bias in the Congress and the US media. "I think that will do a lot to convince the American people that Israel is behaving badly and that the Palestinians are just trying to protect themselves."

Six of the eight member team made their way Monday into Iraq where they will spend two weeks. The delegation expects to visit Baghdad, Kurdistan and Bassrah before returning to Amman. The intentions of this second fact-finding mission is to *monitor the economic and social* conditions of Iraqis, with specific emphasis on the impact the US led embargo on shortages of food and medicine.

Including in the trip to Iraq are Roettinger, Willson, Barfield, Rick Droz, an ex-Marine who lost his leg in the Vietnam War, John Schuchardt, an ex-Marine who was arrested for yelling anti-Gulf War slogans at President George Bush during the conflict, and William Kelsey, an ex-ensign officer in the Navy.

Egbert will be returning to his job at Texas Southwestern University hospital and Mark Birnbaum, an ex-US Army intelligence officer, will return to the United States to produce a documentary on the group's tour of Palestine. ■

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Americans and Saudis ponder the question:

What to do with Saddam Hussein?

By Judith Miller

WHAT IS to be done about Saddam Hussein? The question, like the man himself, has a disconcerting way of reimposing itself on Washington, the capitals of Europe, and especially the Middle East. For despite what was once considered — erroneously, it now seems — the virtual obliteration of Iraq's offensive military capability and all political credibility, Saddam Hussein hangs on.

Last week, with the failure of Mr Hussein's effort to prevent United Nations inspectors from leaving with sensitive Iraqi nuclear documents, another display of brinkmanship ended with yet another humiliating retreat but not before it prompted the first significant deployment of American arms to Saudi Arabia since the end of the Gulf War.

In the Middle East, the months since the war have seen a widespread change in attitude toward Saddam Hussein. Even Israel, according to a well-placed Israeli analyst, initially concluded after the war — as did several key Arab officials — that a wounded, weakened Iraqi despot fighting for survival might serve its intbrests more than chaos and an unknown leader who might quickly rebuild Iraq's nuclear and military capabilities.

But Israel reversed its assessment several weeks ago, the analyst said; it concluded that President Hussein was regaining power and resolidifying his position more quickly than anticipated, and that his history of seeking revenge would pose a continuing danger to Israel and the region.

Among Arabs — notably the Saudis — attitudes are shifting as well, but seemingly from disquiet to disdain. Though the Saudis remain ultra-cautious in domestic policy, Middle East analysts detect what Nathaniel Kern, a Washington-based Saudi analyst, called "a new assertiveness" in general in foreign affairs. "For four decades, Saudi policy followed the principle: When in doubt do nothing," Mr Kern said "Today it's become, 'If there's an opportunity, take it.'"

Fouad Ajami, a professor at the Johns Hopkins School for Advanced International Studies in Washington, said, "The ostrich era is over, at least for a while." As evidence, he cited Saudi Arabia's decision to permit Samir Shihabi, its delegate to the United Nations, to campaign openly for president of the General Assembly, a race he won handily two week ago. Even earlier came the bold decision to endorse the Bush administration's Arab-Israeli peace process. Saudi Arabia's agreement to attend regional meetings with Israel on problems of mutual concern was a critical step in winning Arab acceptance of the peace plan. So was Saudi pressure on Syria, which helped produce its agreement to come to a peace table.

A senior US administration official said that immediately after the war, both Egypt and Saudi Arabia were concerned — "to say there was pressure on us is too strong," he said — that the war against Iraq not be continued too long. The Saudis, in particular, feared that Iraq might be dismembered.

Another concern to the Sunni *Muslim Saudi dynasty was that a* new government in Baghdad might be dominated by Shiite Muslims, aligned with or under the influence of Iran. Washington shared these concerns, the American official stressed, as did Europeans. "And we didn't have an alternative candidate to lead Iraq," he said.

There still seems no natural successor to Mr Hussein. But Mr Ajami argues that many Saudis have lost their fear of him. "In Riyadh and in Cairo, the myth of Iraqi power was shattered by the war," he said. "They saw a Saddam Hussein who managed to kill fewer Americans than did a lone suicide driver in Beirut." Mr Ajami was referring to the suicide attack on the United States Marine compound in Beirut in which 241 American servicemen died in October 1983.

Saudi Arabia and Egypt also seem less fearful than they once were that a Shiite dominated regime might emerge in Baghdad. "The Shiites rose up last spring and were crushed," Mr Ajami said. "So the big bogeyman of Shiism is dead." So is much of the concern that Iraq might be partitioned or dismembered. All of the Iraqi opposition, as well as Iraq's neighbors, are now committed, at least orally to keeping Iraq, absent Saddam, intact. And Saudi Arabia's general reconciliation with Iran has also helped claim suspicions about Iranian intentions.



Saddam: Feeling secure

Egypt and Saudi Arabia appears less afraid of popular Arab *reaction to more restrictions on* Iraq, or the use of military force if necessary. "Saddam really hasn't endeared himself to his people or anyone in the region," said William B. Quandt, a Middle East expert at the Brookings Institution. While Egypt has said new military action against Iraq might endanger the peace conference, Mr Quandt added, the *link is tenuous.* "While Iraq and the US were eyeball to eyeball this week, the Palestinians were deciding to attend the peace conference," he said. "Even Palestinians, who were most supportive of Iraq, are afraid to miss the parade."

Some Saudis say the ruling family is divided about the wisdom of keeping President Hussein around and the wisdom of an open association with the United States in confronting him. Some, such as Prince Bandar bin Sultan, the Saudi ambassador to Washington, have vigorously lobbied for new pressure to get *rid of him. But other Saudis con*tinue to see some utility in his tenure. As long as Mr Hussein remains, they maintain, the Gulf countries will not be called upon to spend billions reconstructing Iraq.

What has not changed is the desire in Riyadh to be protected if the United States decides to move against Iraq, and the desire, particularly in Egypt, for "deniability," that is, to be able to argue that resort to force was an American call. In addition, both the Bush administration and its Arab collation allies continue to hope for a palace coup in which, as one official said, "a nice Sunni general will finally get fed up and remove Saddam."

But that is not a strategy for removing him, critics of American and Arab policy say. Laurie Mylroie, an expert on Iraq who teaches at the Naval War College in Rhode Island, argues that Mr Hussein may, in fact, be feeling increasingly secure. His recent removal of Saadun Hamadi, the Iraqi prime minister who was associated with liberalization, and his decision to bring men back onto the streets in staged demonstrations for the regime, suggest that this is the case.

"Without weapons, money, or pride, Saddam cannot last indefinitely," a Saudi official said. "*God will take care of him.*"

"Given our options," a senior United Nations official said, "given the fact that military action is unlikely, and that even a military strike would probably not get rid of him, the 'God willing' strategy may be as good as any other." ■

The New York Times

Hamas blasts PNC decisions, warns of US conspiracies

AMMAN (Star) — A spokesman of Islamic Resistance Movement (HAMAS), Mr Ibrahim Ghosheh criticised the Palestine National Council (PNC) decision to authorize Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) Executive Committee to participate in a proposed Middle East peace conference.

In a Wednesday press conference Mr Ghosheh said that PNC decisions were adopted in response to Arab and international demands and not Palestinian aspirations.

He added that PNC decisions provided a cover for Arab states, who were hesitant before the Palestinian approval, to join the peace process.

Mr Ghosheh warned that many parties shared Israel's goal of ending the Palestinian uprising in the occupied territories and in taking off the Palestinian issue from the list of regional and international disputes. He said the peace conference will take at least five years to reach any solutions.

During this period, he added, "Israel will fill the occupied territories with settlement because the number of Jewish immigrants from the Soviet Union will have reached 2 million."

Therefore, Mr Ghosheh said, Israel is preparing itself to expand at the expense of neighboring Arab states.

Ghosheh, an engineer living in Amman, said the United States, which fought on behalf of Israel in the Gulf War, is now preparing itself to fight on behalf of the Jewish state at the proposed peace conference.

He also added that the PNC abandoned what it had agreed upon in its 1988 session which is the convening of an international peace conference and the setting up of an independent Palestinian state with Jerusalem as its capital.

The PNC, Mr Ghosheh said, did not mention Palestinian national unity or the third Palestinian migration from Kuwait. It also ignored what he called the Islamic dimension of the Palestinian cause.

Mr Ghosheh praised the Palestinian Intifada and said that Hamas and other Islamic move*ments in the occupied territories* and inside the Arab world are considering means to prevent the peace conference from taking place next month. This, he suggested could be done by escalating the Intifada and resorting to "suitable measures". "There are indications of conspiracies to ignite an internal fighting among the Palestinians to stop the Intifada in preparation for the regional conference," he said. ■

LETTERS

A view from Reykjavik

To the Editor:

AS A Jew born in Palestine and struggling for the respect of international law and the implementation of UN resolutions, including those concerning the Palestinian people, I feel very concerned about the apparent readiness of some Arab states including Jordan, to participate in a US-sponsored peace conference on the Middle East.

The United States has not shown yet that it works for a just and lasting peace in the Middle East. It arrogantly rejects the rights of the Palestinian people to self-determination, including their right to nominate their own leaders. It declares itself unwilling to use the necessary leverage to press Israel to end its occupation of Palestinian and other Arab land. It is putting pressure on its allies and exerts blackmail on East European countries to give moral legitimacy to Zionism. It closes its doors to Soviet Jews so as to force them to settle on land expropriated from Palestinian Arabs. Its policies are a barrier to peace in the Middle East.

I urge you to declare that Jordan will not take part in a US-sponsored peace conference as long as the United states refuses to recognize the inalienable rights of the Palestinian people, particularly the right to self-determination, and refuses to work for the implementation of international law and the UN resolutions on the Palestine question.

Elias Davidsson,
Reykjavik, Iceland.

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Chamber calls on returnees to invest in industry

By Salwa Sukhon
Special to The Star

THE DIRECTOR of the Amman Chamber of Industry, Dr Muhammad Hallaykah, believes good will come out of the seemingly chronic returnees problem. His optimism is based on the possibility of gearing returnees investments into new industrial areas and creating jobs for skilled and professional expatriates who are now seeking employment in the country.

According to Department of Statistics report, only 21 per cent of returnees intend to invest in Jordan, while 40 per cent of them do not. That leaves about 39 per cent of returnees as possible investors. On the other hand, the Ministryof Labor says that the rate of unemployment has jumped from 3.6 per cent in the early 1980s to an estimated 20 per cent now. Other figures put the rate of unemployment at no less than 30 per cent. Presently no less than 50,000 Jordanian expatriates have returned from Kuwait and other Gulf countries and at least 65 per cent of them have joined the long jobless queues who are searching for work. But in spite of this bleak picture, Dr Hallaykah says there is a silver lining.

He says that we have to bear in mind that many of those who returned are highly skilled professionals whose expertise is needed in Jordan. Others are potential investors. If the two can be put together, then a great opportunity for the industrial sector lies ahead.



Industry : Attracting returnee investors

To do this present mechanisms will have to be changed and improved in order to encourage returnees to invest in their country.

Dr Hallaykah notes that there will be infrastructural problems in the short run especially in providing health services, educational facilities, housing, food and water to the returnees and their families.

At present the chamber is working on classifying returnees into professions. "If we take the right measures in encouraging investments and in classifying professions, then we will be able to determine the sectors that can benefit from both money and expertise," Dr Hallaykah says.

In his view there are industries which present themselves to incoming investors like spareparts and textiles among others. He says that many exporters have expressed their dissatisfaction with Jordan's packaging industry and he suggests that this too could be a worthwhile field of investment.

He also believes there is a need to direct these new investments outside Amman and away from crowded urban centers into new areas that offer "a reasonable infrastructure and important incentives." Dr Hallaykah notes the roles of the Industrial Development Bank (IDB), which basically offers soft loans for the purchase of equipment and machinery, and the industrial estates in both Sahab and Irbid where investors can benefit from the "excellent infrastructure provided in these industrial complexes."



Dr Hallaykah

Furthermore, he points out that the chamber is putting its data bank under the disposal of investors who would like to know more about existing industries, their capitals, work force and export markets. The chamber will also assist in feasibility studies and putting investors in touch with professionals in their field.

One of the important issues, in Dr Hallaykah's view, is the need for the private and public sectors to work closely at policy-making level. "Policy decisions should be taken to serve the long-term interests of our economy," he says. One area where long-term planning is needed is in agricultural industries especially in the light of Jordan's acute water shortages. "Such an indicator must be considered when policy decisions are taken," Dr Hallaykah says. "We have suffered in the past because decisions were taken in vacuum and policy-making processes were fragmented." Other factors like population growth, education, changing social needs and trends, limited resources and utilization of existing resources, must also be considered during the policy-making process.

He says Jordan's industrial sector contributes about 35 per cent to the Kingdom's GNP compared to 30 years ago when the rate did not exceed 8 per cent. Jordan's industrial exports reached an average of JD 100 million at present compared to JD 1 million in the early 1970s. Jordan today, he says, exports to markets in North Africa, Europe and the Soviet Union and is expanding its foreign markets.

"We have to learn from the lessons of the past," he says. "We came across many golden opportunities and lost them because of legislation problems and short-term plans. Now another golden opportunity is coming and we must not miss it." ■

ANZ Grindlays hopes to expand its Jordan operations

By Hamdan Al Haj
Star Staff Writer

TWO SENIOR officials of ANZ Grindlays, who had yesterday concluded a six-day visit to Jordan, said that the Bank of Credit and Commerce International (BCCI) crisis has not affected relations between Arab banking establishments and their British counterparts, which goes back many years.

But Mr Bevyn Randford, managing director of ANZ Grindlays and senior general manager for Europe, South Asia, the Middle East and Africa, and Mr Barry McCance, regional general manager for the Middle East, believe the BCCI affair has created much concern for bankers and depositors alike.

"It was a unique bank which started rapidly and expanded quickly forcing other banks to be cautious when dealing with it," said Mr Randford.

Commenting on the manner in which the Bank of England has handled the BCCI affair, both men referred to the judicial inquiry into BCCI, which "some would say it is too narrowly focused to get the whole picture." But they stressed on the Bank of England's professionalism and on its ability to deal with British banking issues.

On the ANZ Grindlays plans to expand in Europe, Mr Randford said that the bank was not present in Europe with branches in Frankfurt and Paris and representative offices in Milan and Athens.

"The role of the bank in Europe will be fairly limited," he added referring to the 1992 Single Market deadline for the European Community.

"Many major banks are preparing themselves to deal with the experience of a single market, but Grindlays bank doesn't see itself as a strong player in this area," Mr Randford added.



Mr Randford (left) and Mr McCance

But the bank is keen on maintaining and expanding its presence in the Middle East where ANZ is widely represented. "We have had more than 100 years of experience in the region," Mr McCance said whose bank first appeared when National and Grindlays, two British firms, commenced operations in Karachi, Pakistan in 1883.

In Jordan the bank's history goes back to the early 1920s when it was the first bank to start operations in TransJordan.

Today the Australian-owned bank is present in the Gulf region where it runs an extensive branch network and is among the *longest established foreign* banks.

"We can claim with some justification, therefore, to have considerable expertise and a strong reputation in Middle Eastern markets," McCance added.

The two men agreed that there are clear signs that business activity is picking up in the region following the Gulf War. Prospects for the 1990s as a whole are good, Mr Randford said.

He said that after Kuwait and Iraq, *Jordan* was probably the worst affected by the Gulf crisis. At best, economic recovery in the short term is likely to be sluggish, constrained by the slow pace of reconstruction work in Iraq, the burden of returned expatriates and political uncertainties over the Palestinian Israeli issue, he added. Despite strong support from Europe and Japan, another agreement with IMF is probably needed and external debt payments will have to be rescheduled, he said.

But according to Mr McCance, the bank's experience in Jordan has been "a great success for many years" and he predicted a gradual improvement in economic performance. "We are keen on expanding in the future," Mr Randford added.

But future expansion is tied to regional stability and economic growth on the one hand, and the Central Bank of Jordan (CBJ) policies on banking licenses and control of local banks on the other. ■

Water shortage estimated at 90,000 cu.m daily in Amman

AMMAN (Star) — Water Authority sources *have confirmed* that the Amman Governorate is facing a daily shortage of drinking water estimated at 90,000 cubic meters daily. The sources said that out of the 300,000 cubic meters of water needed daily, the Authority is supplying only 210,000 cubic meters every day. The population of the governorate is estimated at roughly 1.250 million, but the number of subscribers is put at 206.8 thousand. The sources estimated that the Authority needs to collect at least JD 2 million of unpaid water bills in addition to another JD 1.5 million from government and semi-government establishments.

The sources said the authority is finding it extremely difficult to offer its services and to cope with increasing demand. ■

Money Matters

Average exchange rates in fils
Tuesday 1/10/1991

	Buy	Sell
US$	686.0	688.0
£	1197.1	1203.1
DM	411.2	413.3
SFr	472.8	475.2
FRF	120.7	121.3
YEN (100)	515.8	518.4
DFL	364.9	366.7
SKR	112.7	113.3
LIT (100)	55.0	55.3
BLF (10)	197.9	198.9

Gold & Silver

Gold	JD
1kg	7.850.00
21 ct	6.800
18 ct	5.900
Eng. pound	
8g	56.000
Rashad:	
7g	49.5000
24ct(swiss)	8.550
Silver (1kg)	150.00

Deposit Rates

Euro-deposit rates:

	US	DEM	STG	Yen	SFR
1 mo.	5.7/16	9.1/8	10.11/16	6.84	8.1/4
2.mo	5.7/16	9.3/16	10.7/16	6.62	8.1/4
3.mo	5.5/8	9.5/16	10.3/8	6.53	8.1/4
6.mo	5.11/16	9.3/8	10.3/16	.06	8.1/8
1.year	5.3/4	9.3/8	10.1/8	6.03	8.1/16

Interbank rates (Jordan):
Saving accounts7.75%. Call accounts 7.50%, 1 week 7.75%, 1 month 8.25%, 2 months 8.25%, 3 months 8.50%, 1 year 9%. Lending rate (AAA) 13%.
Dollar:

	DMK	SFR	STG	YEN	CAN	FFR
LAST	1.6653/90	1.4530/37	1.7480/87	133.14/21	1.1322/27	5.6790/10

Source: Amman Bank for Investment, Tel: 642701

Fashion

Re-entry lag

By Eleanor Lambert



The gold metallic jacket is darted to shape the narrow waist and release over the hips into a bell-shaped peplum. The black knitted leggings are lambs wool.



Black & white double face wool check suit sports a signature sealing wax BB button. The check reverses to a black & white plaid. The skirt is slit on each side with a rounded rim. The bright yellow double face wool swing coat sports the biggest pockets of the season. The walking shorts are in the same black & white double face woolen.

MY FRIEND Nancy Holmes, the novelist, has a name for that numb, disoriented feeling that comes when summer ends and you try to re-adjust to the daily grind. She calls it "re-entry lag." She also claims to know the instant remedy: a new fall suit.

There has never been a better way to snap out of the doldrums than dressing up in a new outfit, and changing from summer sheers to autumn woolens gives the mind a nice psychological jump start from ease to action.

This year's suit crop is both sexy and sensible. There are plenty of loose, sporty, Armani-type suits around, but the big news lies in the return of the sleek, fitted long jacket over a short tight skirt.

Some designers call it neo-feminine, for its new interpretation of the traditional dressmaker suits made immortal by Worth, Balenciaga, Channel, Marc Bohan and St. Laurent in Europe, and by Hattie Carnegie, Ben Zuckerman and Adrian in America.

The dressmaker suit of the '90s strips away most of the trimmings of the past, such as chains, lapels and low necks. Buttons and pockets remain important and the masterful tailoring (that makes a designer suit as expensive as a diamond bracelet and just as lasting) is curved and slanted precisely to play up the lean waist, taut tummy and snake hips that every woman maintains today.

These are citified suits — they have nothing to do with sportswear. There is no slouch to them and they are the opposite of mannish. They are descended from the sumptuously simple royal riding habit that was the first woman's work uniform, designed for queens and princesses when they rode horseback in processions.

At today's prices, a designer suit is in the same category as a new car or a good pearl necklace — an investment, not an indulgence. It lasts for years and gives you a thrill of possession every time you wear it.

The additives of blouses, sweaters, scarves and jewelry alter its mood from year to year, but its basic performance amortizes the cost, paying a dividend in dependability and elegance.

The suits here, from American designers, show the sophisticated side of the fall 1991 daytime fashion story. ■

The last of America's rain forests

By Rick Carroll

WAO KELE O PUNA RAIN FOREST Hawaii — Indigenous Hawaiians and US environment groups are accusing the US government of hypocritically destroying its last major rain forest while exhorting developing countries to conserve their own forest resources.

Test-drilling for a $4 billion geothermal power project has already begun in the midst of Wao Kele O Puna (green forest of Puna) rain forest on the eastern rift of the Kilauea Volcano on the island of Hawaii. If the drillers succeed, they will create a geothermal complex of five power plants tapping into the steam beneath the active volcano to generate 500 megawatts from 80 wells nearly two miles deep.

This energy is intended to surge along a 269-mile cable stretched along the seabed reaching down to 6,000 feet, and around mile-high mountains to the island of Oahu to provide electricity for the local economy which is dominated by the $8 billion a year tourist industry.

The rain forest is small by South American standards — just 27,000 acres — but it is regarded by opponents of the project as a key ecological resource and an important symbol of the hypocrisy of the US government on environmental issues.

Said Brent Blackwelder, of Friends of the Earth: "What is going on is nothing short of a national disgrace. We're preaching to developing countries that you have to preserve your rain forest, while at the same time we are subsidizing the destruction of our own."

Scientists say the rain forest, already gouged by bulldozers, is "the best theatre for evolution in the world" — greater than Darwin's Galapagos Islands because of Hawaii's isolation in time, distance and environmental variation. The biota of Hawaii is unique: 95 per cent of the state's flowering plants and 97 per cent of its animals, including birds, live only in Hawaii, and many of these only in the rain forest.

Says biologist Peter M. Vitousek, an expert on rain forests at Standford University: "Nowhere else on Earth is there such a spectacular matrix of climate and soils occupied by plants and animals whose evolutionary history is so well-known. Work in Hawaii can allow us to determine what controls the way tropical forests grow and develop all over the world."

Volcanoes National Park manager Dan Taylor says: "The rain forest is delicate, non-renewable and collapsing fast. You can't sacrifice something irreplaceable like a rain forest... to satisfy an insatiable hunger for air conditioning and neon lights. That's a sacrilege and that's not why we're here."

Indigenous Hawaiians are fighting the geothermal project on the grounds that it desecrates Pele, the Hawaiian goddess of fire, who causes volcanoes to erupt. They have formed a protest group called the Pele Defense Fund led by Molokai Physician Noa Emmet Aluli and Big Island fisherman Ralph Palikapu Dedman. Says Dedman: "For us, it is a sacrilege to keep poking holes in Pele's body to capture her steam so people can make money." Indigenous Hawaiians believe Pele, the sole manifestation of Hawaiian deities, may disappear, along with their religious beliefs, if her steam is sold for profit.

The Pele Defense Fund has filed a lawsuit against the state, claiming it has failed as a land steward to keep the forest open for indigenous Hawaiian rites and to maintain it as a source of traditional herbal medicines.

In 1983, Kilauea volcano erupted and covered the original drill site with 300 feet (92 metres) of lava. The eruption, which continues sporadically today, has claimed 200 homes and added an area almost as big as San Francisco to the island.

Opponents doubt whether the project would lower electricity costs or free Hawaii from imported fossil fuels. The project has received another blow with the news that President George Bush has revised his national energy policy and caused the US Department of Energy to cancel the first of three $5 million payments to fund geothermal development in Hawaii. ■ Pacific

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The Star's SPORT

Jordan's political, economic and cultural weekly

WEEKLY ROUND-UP OF NATIONAL AND INTERNATIONAL SPORT EVENTS



DOUBLE DUTY? White Sox/Raiders Bo Jackson

Is Jackson returning to the NFL Raiders?

● Bo apparently doesn't know if he is going to play for the Los Angeles Raider this fall. If he does, he is not saying.

A spokesman for Bo Jackson's doctor said a decision hasn't been made concerning the two-sport star's immediate football future, and one won't be made until after the baseball season.

"Bo has said from early on that while baseball season is on he's going to concentrate on baseball," said Lanier Johnson, a spokesman for Dr. James Andrews and Alabama Sports Medicine in Birmingham, Alabama. "When football season gets here, he'll deal with football. Jackson's football future became a hot topic last week when the Atlanta Braves announced that outfielder Deion Sanders would return to the team during the pennat race while he remained a defensive back for the Atlanta Falcons.

Jackson is the designated hitter for the Chicago White Sox. He signed with the White Sox as a free agent after being released by the Kansas City Royals on March 19.

Japanese women's football: Lady Kong ready to do battle

● Japan newest women's football team spends hours each week practicing. Now all it needs is some competition. "It is fun to play. I am enthralled by it," said Nacko Hasegawa, the 137-pound team captain of the Lady Kong, said of American football, which remains something of a novelty in Japan, where baseball and sumo wrestling are King.

The Lady Kong, sponsored by Dai-Ichi Mutual Life Insurance Co. was formed last November as Japan's third women's football team. It has 22 players, many of whom are gum instructors, and five male coaches.

The average player is 123 pounds. An avid sports enthusiast, Hasegawa, 26, said she enjoyed tennis, body building and weightlifting before turning to football. Hasegawa plays running back, defensive back and serves as the backup quarterback.

What's the hardest?

"Everything is difficult. It's difficult because it's teamwork," she said. The Lady Kong works out twice a week at night, beginning with light warm-ups and winding up with a scrimmage.

Among the difficulties for the women is getting used to wearing all the protective gear. Quarterback Rika Shishido, recalling the first time she suited up, said: "I felt it was hard to keep balance. I felt the helmet was heavy, and it made me feel as though I was lunging ahead."

Anti-smoking group urges boycott of tennis match sponsored by Marlboro

● An anti-smoking group urged citizens to boycott a tennis Championship sponsored by a US cigarette firm and demanded the government halt plans for the competition.

The Korea Association of Smoking and Health said in a statement that the Marlboro Championships 1991 to be held in Seoul, Beijing and Hong Kong next month aim at booking cigarettes sales in Asia and demanded the cancellation of the games.

The enormous expenses to be used for the games are dirty money generated at the expense of human health and lives, the statement said.

It claimed the games were to promote smoking, not sports.

Organizers claim the tennis Championship will include play by 16 top tennis players from around the world competing for $640,000 in prize money.

The matches in Seoul scheduled for October 15-16will feature Jim Courier, ranked No. 5 in the world, Rich Reneberg, ranked 21st and the 66th ranked Shuzo Matsouka of Japan.

Watson improves; Morales tests positive for alcohol

● Doctors treating British Boxer Michael Watson believe there are some signs of improvement, a hospital spokesman said last Friday.

Watson, 26, is still in a critical condition with a brain injury after his defeat last week in a World Boxing Organization Super-Middle Weight fight against compatriot Chris Eubank.

Meanwhile, Fernie Morales, who came out of a four-day coma this week after losing a little fight and requiring emergency brain surgery, tested positive for alcohol in his urine after the bout, the California State Athletic Commission said.

Johnston declines offer to return to Liverpool

● Australian Soccer Star Craig Johnston said early this week he had turned down an offer to rejoin leading English Soccer club Liverpool.

Johnston shocked Liverpool by suddenly announcing his retirement in 1988 while still contracted to the first division club. "However, earlier this year he had talked with manager Graem Souness about resuming his career.

But Johnston, 30, said he had received an attractive offer from Europe to produce a television game show he has created and which has proved popular in Australia. "Sounness is a very tough man to negotiate with and it was not easy to tell him that I wasn't coming back," Johntson said.



AWAKENING — Dutch soccer Star Ruud Gullit reacts with equanimity upon discovering that his club AC Milan are negotiating his transfer to Real Madrid.

Milan reported trying to sell Gullit

● AC Millan are currently negotiating the sale of Dutch Star Ruud Gullit to Spanish Real Madrid, according to Rome daily La Republic.

Although the paper doesn't disclose a likely purchase price for Gollit, it claims that negotiations between AC Milan President Silvio Berlusconi and Madrid counterpart Ramon Mendoza are already well advanced.

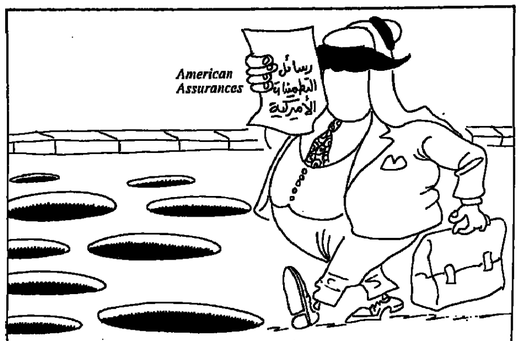
Gullit, 29, has played in less than half of Milan's League games over the last three seasons because of problems related to his right knee, on which he has had three operations.

Gullit joined AC Milan in the Summer of 1987 at a cost of $8.5 million. His best year with the club was undoubtedly his first, when he inspired the team to win the 1988 Italian title.

Although Gullit is widely believed to have made a complete recovery from three years of injury, most commentators argue that he has failed to regain his previous high standard of play



CHECKING ALL-ANGLES European Ryder Cup Golfer Nick Faldo (kneeling) lines up a putt as American Paul Azinger looks on.



Jalal Rifa'i/Ad-Dustour

Our Say....

A sign from Israel

NOW THAT the Palestine National Council (PNC) has given its approval to the PLO leadership to participate in the current efforts to convene a US-Soviet-sponsored Middle East peace conference, one major hurdle before the realization of such an event has been removed. It is still unclear whether Washington and Moscow will extend invitations to the parties concerned in the coming few days or weeks. The prospects for holding such a conference remain in doubt because every time that window of opportunity, which US Secretary of State James Baker keep talking about, opens Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhak Shamir shuts it again.

There still remains the question of forming a joint Jordanian-Palestinian delegation to the conference. The Palestinian side will want to name its own delegates, a contentious matter between Palestinians and Israelis, who threaten to jump from the peace train if the PLO appeared to have anything to do with the make-up of its own delegation. As audacious the Israeli position is — made even more brazen by the escalation of illegal settlement activities in the occupied territories — the Shamir logic makes sense! Why budge if others are willing to do so in your favor?

We have seen no change in the position of the Israeli government ever since Baker embarked on his treacherous mission to strike peace between Arabs and Israelis. On the other hand, we have seen more than one gesture of good intentions emanating from other parties to the conflict; namely Jordan, Syria and now the Palestinians.

It is at this critical moment that one dares put forward some fresh ideas into an already stale affair. For instance, is it not about time that Washington re-initiated its direct dialogue with the PLO? By doing so the Americans would bolster their credibility among the Palestinians, in particular, and all Arabs in general, regardless of the Israeli reaction to this extremely important development. And, since Israel responded to every positive development leading towards the convening of the peace conference by laying the foundation of a new settlement in the occupied territories, is it not timely for the Americans to send a strong signal to Tel Aviv including a threat to turn the matter to the Iraq-experienced Security Council of the United Nations?

There are prerequisites to peace, ones that only the Israelis could supply. These include a formal and open declaration of their willingness to sit and talk with Palestinians, regardless of their identity card information, background and political affiliations. They also include an unconditional and immediate halt to all settlement activities in the occupied areas and a formal acceptance of the land-for-peace formula.

Other than that, Shamir's logic will win the day in effect derailing the peace train before it reaches its destination. The United States can either deal with this matter now, or during the peace conference. Now, though, is more convenient because the whole world expects Israel to provide a sign of its willingness to work for peace. A freeze in settlement activities will do; an easing of repression inside the occupied areas will help; no interference in the inalienable right of Palestinians to self-determination, is a valuable sign.

Without a fundamental change in Israel's attitude to the peace process, and its objectives, the chances for an equitable and just peace in the region are remote and void. In the end Israel will have to yield, reluctantly if necessary, if the conference is ever to bear that precious fruit of peace. ■

UN General Assembly starts session with a sense of challenge

By a Special Correspondent

NEW YORK —More than ever before, the forty-sixth session of the General Assembly of the United Nations started in a mood of strong optimism and high expectations, as member states convened to lay out their visions for the coming era. While the previous session may have been marked the first in the post-Cold War era, in light of the changing political conditions in Europe, the Soviet Union, the Gulf, and other parts of the world, this session started with a sense of challenge and responsibility to shape the structure of the coming era. While the general mood was positive and supportive of the changing international political climate, a number of countries expressed caution towards a unipolar world or a system of dominance by one power with no retaining counter weight.

In the first week of the general debate, which started on Monday 23 September 1991, 16 heads of state and 49 ministers representing their respective countries have laid out their visions for the coming era. All members agreed on the increased and Central role of the United Nations and the Secretary-General. In this connection, numerous suggestions were made for more dynamic, better focused, and Secretary financed Organizations, with strengthened political functions, especially for preventive diplomacy.

Early warning and the collection of information were of particular importance to most delegates in light of the rapidly changing international political scene and the expectations directed towards the United Nations. Some states called for a more balanced relationship between the Secretary-General, the Security Council, and the General Assembly. The representative of Italy, in particular, came forward with a proposal to restructure the Security Council, especially its membership.

While there have been numerous discussions about reforming the Security Council, it was the first time that this proposal had been put forward on the floor of the General Assembly.

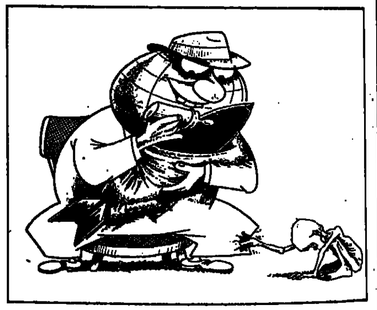
In discussing present, ongoing regional conflicts, member states referred to their continued support for an international conference on the Middle East, based on Security Council resolutions 242 and 338. Statements were made in support of the peace process in Afghanistan, Cambodia, Cyprus, as well as South Africa and the Gulf. The main concern to the majority of states, however, by posing a new challenge to the international community was the situation in Yugoslavia. Speakers addressing the General Assembly recognized the fact that ethnic conflicts could no longer be regarded as the sole responsibility of an individual or states and that such conflicts could constitute a threat to international peace and security.

Disarmament questions remained high on the list of priorities of most states addressing the Assembly. A call to halt the proliferation of nuclear weapons, as well as to ban and renounce the use of chemical and bacteriological weapons were repeated. Strong support for a register of international arms transfer under the United Nations was expressed by countries such as Australia, Norway, Japan, Sri Lanka, USSR, and the UK.

The question of human rights and humanitarian affairs were also addressed extensively as a new and necessary element for the new order while the need for more attention and universal respect for human rights was repeatedly emphasized.

In the midst of all this, some countries echoed President George Bush call to revise the General Assembly resolution of 1975 which equated Zionism with racism. A suggestion to review the human rights covenants was also made, as they were felt to be ideology-centres, yet the overall atmosphere with regard to the respect for human rights was positive and tended to move towards a direction going beyond artificial pretext of interference in internal affairs, as put by the foreign Minister of USSR.

In relation to the question of human rights, the Assembly was also reminded about the urgent need for a more systemat-



ic framework for humanitarian assistance in emergency situations.

High expectations were voiced in support for the upcoming Untied Nations Conference on Environment and Development, to be held in Brazil. The conference "should not be one of venting grievances but should be a venue where common interests can be explored and responded," remarked the president of the host-country of the conference.

While some states expressed special concern on questions such as the contamination of the oceans, management of the living resources of the high seas, climate change or forestry, the common perception was that a global action plan to be met with shared responsibility has become indispensable.

With regard to the question of development and international economy, concerns focused on the conclusion of the Uruguay round of negotiations of the general agreement on tariffs and trade (GATT).

The view of the US president that democracy grows best has become representative of the views shared by many countries for both the industrialized world as well as the developing world. At he same time, concern towards a new wave of protectionism was expressed and the question on external indebtedness remained to be prior concern to the many representatives of developing countries. ■

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Madison Avenue and the Third World

By Abdel-Qader Yassine

LAST NOVEMBER American peace and solidarity groups came out in full force to protest against their government's support for the right wing regime in El Salvador. In an effort to drive back the FMLN (the armed revolutionary movement fighting for social justice), the El Salvador government had once again let loose the military death squads, killing civilians and brutally murdering 38 women and children.

The peace rallies in the United States, demanding an end to their government's economic and military aid to the repressive regime in El Salvador, found a rather unusual target: a PR firm. The law firm of O'Connor and Hannen, with offices in Washington and Minneapolis is like any other law firm in the United States, with one essential difference: it is the public relations agent in the US for El Salvador's President Alfredo Cristiani and his government.

The US department of justice records show that until October last year the firm of O'Connor and Hannen was registered as a "foreign agent" for ARENA, Cristiani's right wing party best known for its death squads.

The law firm is hardly unique in offering its services to polish the tarnished image of a repressive government. Selling foreign governments is big business in the United States. A new breed of "political consultants", many of them prominent Madison Avenue PR firms, rake in two to five billion dollars a year by promoting foreign interests with US policy-makers, multinational corporations and the mass media.

Third World governments, mostly right wing dictatorships guilty of gross violation of their peoples' human and civil rights, are major clients of American PR firms. Of the 30 countries hiring American PR agencies during 1984-1988, 24 were from the Third World. Recent estimates indicate that Third World countries spend over $1 billion on public relations in the United States. El Salvador, for instance, pays O'Connor and Hannen $30,000 a month. The firm earns $1.5 million annually from various foreign clients including governments of Bolivia, Israel, Mexico, El Salvador and South Korea.



Israel's repression: A job for the image doctors of Madison Avenue

The proliferation of Third World clients for a facelift raises serious questions not just about the morality of the image doctors, but also about the workings of the media and the foreign policy apparatus in the United States—the two major targets of PR campaigns. Safe-craft, it seems, is winning over state craft in foreign affairs and lobbies are crowding out reality in the media.

Third World clients, on their part, have grasped the central role of image in policy-making in the United States and are determined to exploit the many million dollars (desperately needed at home) that Third World governments spend on slick PR jobs abroad, represent their final capitulation in the struggle for a new world information order, which would have given them a chance to represent themselves to the rest of the World through their own media agencies.

Unable to alter the basic terms of the discourse about the Third World in Western media these countries seem to have decided to collaborate with Western opinion-making institutions in order to manipulate them to their advantage.

The list of clients serviced by Madison Avenue during the last decade reads like a blacklist to Amnesty International: Angolan rebel forces led by Jonas Savimbi, Argentina's military junta, Haiti's Duvalier, Indonesia's Suharto, Iran's Shah, Nicaragua's Somoza, Philippine's Marcos, South Korea's Chun Doo Hwan, Surinam's military junta, Zaire's Mobutu... Selling foreign clients became a major activity of PR firms in the aftermath of the Biafran war in late 1960s when the Nigerian government hired a number of American firms to sway public opinion about its role in crushing the war of cession. Since then, the PR market has boomed.

In 1985 South Africa employed 38 PR firms to whitewash apartheid. Brunei, Israel, Mexico, Pakistan, Saudi Arabia, Taiwan, Turkey and El Salvador are other major clients.

While the image doctor-despot pair varies, the underlying sale pitch is fairly standard. The PR firm locates a "hot spot" — a human rights violator, a government seeking US aid and/or investment — and presents itself to the government as an "interpreter of the American idiom." The aim is to circulate a favourable image of the client country among the US government officials, members of Congress and opinion makers. Services include: arranging press conferences, TV appearances, formal and informal meetings with influential persons, producing press kits and newsletters, writing speeches and coaching the client in discourse about freedom and democracy designed to please American sensibilities.



O'Connor and Hannen, for instance, choreographed Cristiani's visit to the United States in 1990 when he met with President George Bush and lobbied law makers for continued military aid. Cristiani appeared on national TV networks and an article (ghostwritten for him by his PR agents) made it to The New York Times. O'Connor and Hannen also lobbied for ARENA, holding at least 80 meetings with members of Congress.

How successful are such campaigns? Their enormous popularity suggests that they work. US aid to El Salvador increased substantially from 1980 when O'Connor and Hannen began lobbying for ANEP, the country's private enterprise group. Image brokering is also held partially responsible for the lifting of trade sanctions against South Africa in 1982. Jonas Savimbi managed to meet with Ronald Reagan and got a promise of covert aid after he signed a $800,000 contract with the public relations firm of BM & S.

The media too are swayed. A recent study of The New York Times coverage of five countries show that each of these countries received more positive coverage and was portrayed as "co-operating with the United States" after they hired PR agents in the United States. Public relations firms stage media events and "scoops" by arranging exclusive interviews with important sources. American media, with their appetite for the sensational, are easy targets for manipulation.

The irony in all this becomes apparent when one recalls the haughty attitude of the US State Department and mass media towards the Third World's demand for a new world information order back in the 1970s. It is ironic because the country that walked out of UNESCO accusing the Third World of obstructing "free flow of information" considers the information fed to it by hired hands reliable enough to base major foreign policy decisions on. American mass media that rushed to equate Third World's demand for some control over information about itself with "propaganda," are surprisingly quiet about the handouts they receive from Madison Avenue.

Image brokering in policy and opinion making has reduced the public sphere in the United States to a hall of mirrors where images serve as reality. The question is: Who pays the heavy price for these expensive lies? ■

Hope for the losers?

By Rajai Akkawi

IN A world no longer defined by ideological struggle between East and West, development of the Third World — home to four-fifths of the world's population — has emerged as the most pressing challenge facing humankind. Consider that in the few moments it takes to read this paragraph, about 100 children will be born, 94 of whom will grow up in the developing world, where poverty condemns some one billion people to incomes of less than $1 a day and where living standards have actually declined from 25 years ago in one out of four countries.

The future of these Third World children will shape the future of the Developed World Children: be it one of growth and prosperity or of stagnation, despair, environmental destruction and war.

Fortunately, the experience of some 40 years of development efforts gives reason for hope. Large parts of the Third World have enjoyed phenomenal growth, and other regions have witnessed isolated success stories.

What accounts for the vast differences in Third World growth rates? What are the policies that have left countries at a level of development achieved by the United States in 1830 while other countries have risen to the US levels of 1950?

War, famine and natural resources, of course, have played their roles. But according to the World Bank's latest World Development Report, the most crucial policy factor separating Third World winners from losers is the interaction between governments and markets. "Experience shows," says World Bank President Barber B. Conable, "that success in promoting economic growth and poverty reduction is most likely when governments complement markets; dramatic failures result when they conflict."

That may sound innocuous enough, but the evidence behind the generality is striking: According to a Bank survey of 60 developing countries, those with government-led economies and low levels of human services grew on average 3.1 per cent from 1965 to 1987; those with market-led economies and high levels of human services grew at 5.5 per cent.

The Bank's new tilt toward what it terms a "market-friendly" approach to development represents a momentous change in strategy from the days when the guiding philosophy of development was founded on the belief that government could lead the way through rapid industrialization, protection of industries from foreign competition and other trade barriers.

"Those views have not stood the test of time," states the 1991 report, bluntly adding: "competitive markets are the best way yet found" for spurring economic growth.

While the Bank's strong pitch for market-oriented reforms represents a major victory for US policies, it stops far short of declaring that the state has little or no role in development. Rather, it sensibly argues that governments can complement markets by providing efficient legal and regulatory conditions, keeping deficits and inflation under control and encouraging foreign trade and investment. Governments also must provide the necessary investment in human and physical resources including education, health, nutrition, family planning, development of infrastructure and protection of the environment.

What can the developed countries do to promote such policies? Part of the answer is money — mostly in the form of debt relief to give these countries breathing space so that market reforms can work. Other steps include rolling back the trade restrictions and getting their own economy in order.

For the most part, though, "the future of developing countries is in their own hands," states the Bank. If they choose the path to growth through free and open markets and investment in their human capital, the very notion of a "Third World" might one day, early in the next century, be a thing of the past instead of a threat to the future. ■

Le Jourdain

Supplément en français du Star

La physionomie jordanienne en 2005

QUELS seront les besoins de la Jordanie en l'an 2005? C'est à cette question qu'a répondu, la semaine dernière à Amman, une conférence placée sous le haut patronage de la Princesse Basma, sœur de S.M. le roi Hussein. Organisée conjointement par le Comité National pour la Population et par le Fonds des Nations Unies pour la Population, la conférence a dressé, trois jours durant, un tableau de l'évolution de la population jordanienne dans les quinze années à venir, sous les angles suivants: population active et immigration, habitat et services publics, eau et sécurité alimentaire, services sanitaires, enseignement et santé de la mère et de l'enfant.

Des études détaillées sur ces différents sujets (environ 450 pages en tout) ont été présentées à l'occasion de cette conférence.

Il faut féliciter les organismes nationaux et internationaux pour leur choix de la date de cette conférence. Les événements récentes rendaient nécessaire pour la société jordanienne et pour ses responsables de reposer le problème de l'évolution démographique et de ses répercussions.

Après 1948 et 1967, la Jordanie vient en effet de recevoir (ou plutôt de subir) une troisième vague d'immigration. En quelques mois, avec le retour des quelque 300.000 Jordaniens et Palestiniens expulsés arbitrairement du Koweit, la population de la Jordanie vient d'augmenter de 10%. Et l'on reparle de crise du logement, d'augmentation du taux de chômage, de fortes pressions sur les services publics, etc.

Les études présentées à l'occasion de la conférence viennent au bon moment pour aider et éclairer les responsables avant qu'ils ne prennent leurs décisions.

On le sait, les facteurs politiques inattendus liés aux guerres et aux conflits dans la région viennent souvent perturber les efforts de planification. C'est pourquoi les prévisions doivent toujours être considérées avec beaucoup de prudence.

Malgré des difficultés énormes, la Jordanie a su trouver un certain équilibre entre "ses ressources naturelles limitées et l'augmentation rapide de sa population". Les orateurs de la séance inaugurale (la princesse Basma, le ministre du travail et le représentant de l'ONU) n'ont pas manqué de rappeler ce succès.

Au cours des trois dernières décennies, le pays a réalisé des progrès certains dans les domaines de l'enseignement et de la santé: baisse de la mortalité infantile, extension des ressources sanitaires et augmentation de la consommation.



Orienter les jeunes vers les métiers de demain

Mais d'autres problèmes n'ont pas pu être enrayés: forte concentration géographique de la population (88% habite à Amman, Zarka, Irbid et la région de Balqa-Salt), le rapport inactifs/actifs est trop élevé et la population jeune augmente trop rapidement par rapport à l'ensemble. Le taux de contribution de l'agriculture à l'économie nationale a baissé considérablement et de moins en moins de Jordaniens travaillent dans ce secteur.

Le marché du travail est hybride: le nombre de Jordaniens travaillant à l'étranger est sensiblement égal à celui des non-Jordaniens qui travaillent en Jordanie.

A quoi ressemblera donc la Jordanie en 2005? A en croire les prévisions, on comptera 5,670 millions de Jordaniens dans 15 ans, la population active sera de l'ordre de 1,451 million et le nombre de chômeurs atteindra 307.750 (au maximum) ou 146.150 (au minimum). Les prévisionistes redoutent un manque de médecins et d'infirmières en même temps qu'un excédent de pharmaciens et de dentistes. Il conviendrait de développer les soins sanitaires pour la mère et l'enfant. De même: il faudrait ouvrir un hôpital de médecine pédiatrique.

La demande d'eau devrait augmenter d'année en année du fait de l'augmentation de la population et du développement de l'agriculture et de l'industrie. C'est pourquoi la conférence recommande une meilleure gestion de cette denrée précieuse, visant à la fois à exploiter au mieux les ressources disponibles, à construire des barrages et à diminuer la consommation.

Quant à la population active, les conférenciers recommandent la mise en place de mesures susceptibles d'inciter le secteur privé à investir dans des domaines qui absorberont la main d'œuvre, contribuant ainsi à résoudre le problème du chômage. Ils recommandent également une orientation mieux adaptée des étudiants au regard des emplois disponibles. On encourage aussi les femmes à participer à la production et on souhaite accélérer le processus de remplacement des travailleurs immigrés par des travailleurs locaux.

Les orateurs ont souligné le besoin urgent de mesures susceptibles d'améliorer la qualité de l'enseignement en promouvant le statut de l'enseignant, en enrichissant les manuels scolaires, les examens et les méthodes d'apprentissage.

La conférence a recommandé un soutien accru aux projets de construction d'habitations pour les citoyens ayant des revenus limités et une distribution mieux répartie de la population entre les différentes régions du pays.

On a remarqué, à plusieurs reprises, le manque de statistiques ou leur caractère insuffisamment détaillé, notamment dans les domaines de la main d'œuvre, de la répartition des causes de décès entre les différentes maladies, etc. C'est pourquoi le Comité National de la Population appelle à une meilleure coopération avec le Département des Statistiques et avec d'autres services concernés.

Grâce à cette conférence, en tout cas, les responsables jordaniens disposent désormais de "l'infrastructure" nécessaire à toutes leurs décisions pour les années qui viennent, dans le but d'améliorer la vie des Jordaniens. ■

Suleiman SWEISS

Rectificatif

■ La Majeure de français de l'université du Yarmouk compte 335 étudiants répartis dans ses trois années et non 135 comme indiqué par erreur dans le précédent numéro du Jourdain.

Orient express

■ EXPERTS - Un nouveau bras de fer entre l'ONU et l'Irak, autour de documents saisis par une mission d'inspection nucléaire, s'est achevé samedi par la libération des inspecteurs de l'ONU retenus pendant quatre jours dans un complexe de bureaux à Bagdad. Cette libération a eu lieu après que le Conseil de Sécurité eut accepté que soit procédé à un inventaire sur place des documents saisis par la mission sur le programme nucléaire irakien. Le chef de la mission a été accusé par les Irakiens d'être un agent de la CIA.

■ RECONCILIATION - L'Arabie Saoudite a versé à l'OLP une aide financière d'environ 9 millions de dollars. Ce montant, constitué de fonds tirés de la taxe de 5% prélevée sur les salaires des Palestiniens dans le royaume, a été versé par le Comité populaire saoudien d'aide aux combattants de la Palestine.

■ SCANDALE - Le parlement égyptien a décidé après plus de six mois de tergiversations, de transmettre à la justice le dossier de dix députés du PND au pouvoir soupçonnés de trafic de drogue. La presse a joué un rôle déterminant dans la dénonciation de cette affaire. Le journal Al-Wafd avait ainsi publié la semaine dernière une copie de la condamnation à 15 ans de travaux forcés d'un député du Sinaï, prononcée par contumace en 1966.

France en Bre

■ DESARMEMENT - Le pré[sident] dent François Mitterrand a annoncé samedi la tenue prochaine d'une réunion des dirigeants des cinq puissances détentrices d'armes nucléaires en Europe (France, Etats-Unis, Grande-Bretagne et URSS). Il a indiqué avoir obtenu sur le projet l'accord de M. Bush et de M. Gorbatchov. Cette proposition française est intervenue le jour même où le président américain relançait spectaculairement le processus de désarmement nucléaire en annonçant l'élimination unilatérale par les Etats-Unis de toutes leurs armes tactiques.

■ BARBIE - Klaus Barbie [est] mort d'un cancer du sang à l'hôpital de Lyon (sud-est de la France). Surnommé "le boucher de Lyon", il avait été l'un des chefs de la Gestapo dans cette ville pendant la seconde guerre mondiale. Localisé en 1973 en Bolivie, il avait été expulsé en 1983 vers la France et condamné en 1987, au terme d'un procès marathon, à la prison à perpétuité pour "crimes contre l'humanité".

■ FNAC - L'une des plus grandes librairies françaises, la FNAC a inauguré mardi à Paris sa première librairie internationale et la plus mière de cette enseigne en France. Installée boulevard Saint-Germain, au cœur du quartier latin, elle offre des livres dans une quinzaine de langues y compris l'arabe, ainsi qu'un kiosque de presse internationale unique en France.

A VOIR...

Exposition Al-Jaloos
Poésie en blanc



● Vues d'une certaine distance, les toiles d'Al-Jaloos nous font hésiter. S'agit-il d'éléments en trompe-l'œil ou d'authentiques collages? Car le blanc, largement utilisé, se transforme selon l'angle de vision et la lumière en d'innombrables gris, qui chargent d'une présence aussi concrète que mystérieuse des formes indéfinissables. Il semble qu'un heureux hasard fasse ainsi naître de secrètes profondeurs dans un espace imaginaire. Le résultat est un fantastique, sans bruit ni fureur, fait de poésie, de grâce et de silence.

Car il y a des collages faits pour rendre plus lisible un tableau, et je pense aux premiers collages de Braque et Picasso où le faux bois suggère le vrai. Il y en a d'autres qui sont faits pour nous étonner, voire nous agresser, et je pense aux aigles empaillés et aux serpillières de Rauschenberg.

Ceux d'Al-Jaloos, au contraire, semblent faits pour dissimuler une réalité trop évidente, et le blanc qui les domine fait penser à d'autres voiles blancs qui chargent de mystère ce qu'ils cachent.

Mais le plus étonnant chez Al-Jaloos, c'est la rapidité de son évolution.

Avant-hier, il en était encore à peindre des toiles figuratives qui avaient leur place au milieu des chromolithographies qu'on trouve dans les galeries marchandes.

Hier, il a décidé de ne plus faire ce qu'on attendait de lui et, de la façon la plus naturelle, par cette nécessité intérieure qui fait le véritable artiste, sa peinture est devenue non figurative. C'est une peinture qui ne trouve sa raison qu'en elle-même, sans référence à un modèle extérieur.

Aujourd'hui, il est déjà en possession d'un style qui lui est propre, ne serait-ce que par l'emploi de la couleur blanche qui est pour lui ce qu'était le noir à Manet: la couleur qui révèle. Mais là où Manet met un ruban noir pour rendre plus blanc ou plus rose un joli cou, Al-Jaloos, lui, masque de blanc pour mieux chérir sur le mystérieux. Cela s'apparente de sa part à un enchantement cérébral.

Le refus des évidences, de la beauté comme valeur en soi, se joint ainsi -par delà l'insignifiance finale de tout prétexte- à la poésie, tout simplement.

Noël FAVRELIERE

L'exposition est présentée jusqu'au 21 septembre au Centre Culturel Français.

Conseil National Palestinien d'Alger

La victoire du réalisme politique

DIMANCHE dernier à l'aube, le Conseil National Palestinien (parlement en exil) a fait connaître au monde la position palestinienne à l'égard du processus de paix en cours au Proche-Orient.

Dans un long communiqué lu à la fin de ses travaux qui ont duré une semaine à Alger, le CNP a accueilli favorablement les efforts visant à réunir une conférence de paix sur le Proche-Orient. Toutefois, l'OLP estime que la réussite d'une telle conférence dépend de l'application des principes suivants: 1) Respect des résolutions 242 et 338 de l'ONU -ce qui signifie un retrait israélien total des territoires arabes et palestiniens occupés; 2) Jérusalem fait partie intégrante de ces territoires; 3) Refus de l'établissement de colonies dans ces territoires, sans quoi aucun processus de paix n'est envisageable; 4) Droit de l'OLP à représenter le peuple palestinien à la conférence; 5) Consultations entre les positions arabes afin d'éviter toute solution unilatérale; 6) Les différentes phases de la solution devront être liées l'une à l'autre de telle façon que la solution globale soit conforme à la légitimité internationale. Le communiqué précise que le CNP charge le Comité Exécutif de poursuivre les efforts en ce sens afin d'aboutir aux meilleures conditions susceptibles d'assurer le succès de la conférence de paix. Un rapport sera présenté au Conseil Central (organe intermédiaire) pour adoption d'une position finale".

Cette formule a été interprétée par les observateurs comme un pas-pas en avant vers la conférence de paix. Pour pouvoir franchir l'autre demi-pas, le CNP a laissé à Yasser Arafat une grande marge de manœuvre, dans la mesure où "accepter de participer à la conférence" ne veut pas accepter la capitulation.

Il a recommandé par ailleurs la poursuite de la coordination avec la Jordanie et le renforcement des relations avec elle. Peu après, des déclarations du Premier ministre jordanien Zaïd Rifaï et de Yasser Arafat ont confirmé le désir réciproque de concrétiser cette coordination afin de former une délégation commune jordano-palestinienne", selon les termes de M. Masri.

D'autres réactions ne se sont pas faites attendre. M. Baker est "très content". L'administration américaine suivait heure par heure les travaux du CNP par le biais de son ambassade à Alger, selon des sources diplomatiques. Même satisfaction à Paris, à Moscou, dans les territoires palestiniens occupés et dans plusieurs capitales arabes. Même les journaux saoudiens qui étaient, il y a peu de temps encore, réticents à l'égard de l'OLP ont considéré comme "positives" les résolutions du CNP.



Un succès pour Yasser Arafat

Mais la réaction la plus surprenante (et la plus significative) émane de Tel-Aviv. Les commentateurs israéliens n'ont pas pu cacher leur déception face aux résolutions du CNP. Les dirigeants israéliens s'attendaient à ce que les Palestiniens disent non à la conférence, ce qui leur aurait permis de rejeter la responsabilité de son échec sur eux. Le gouvernement Shamir est peut-être en train de chercher de nouveaux prétextes pour saboter la conférence prévue pour se réunir à La Haye à la fin du mois.

L'OLP a obtenu des acquis politiques et financiers avec sa réunion d'Alger selon des informations de l'Agence Reuters. Mais cela n'était pas chose facile: nombreux étaient ceux qui doutaient que le CNP puisse remporter un tel succès, du fait des position des ultras, tels que le mouvement islamiste "Hamas" ou le "Front du Salut" basé à Damas, ou encore de la scission au sein du FDLP dont les conséquences ont été ressenties jusqu'à la réunion d'Alger. A un moment, au cours de débats parfois houleux, Arafat a dû se fâcher et s'est écrié: "Nous ne possédons pas la bombe atomique; notre arme la plus efficace, c'est notre unité nationale".

Il est certain que le président Arafat est sorti renforcé du vingtième Conseil National Palestinien. 256 membres ont voté pour les résolutions, 68 contre et 12 se sont abstenus. C'est le triomphe de la démocratie "à la palestinienne".

La balle est maintenant dans le camp des Américains et des Israéliens qui doivent surmonter les derniers obstacles à la tenue de la conférence de paix. Selon des responsables palestiniens, l'obstacle numéro 1, c'est la colonisation.

En attendant, Hussein et Achraoui, délégués de l'OLP, poursuivent leurs contacts avec le Secrétaire d'Etat américain, qu'ils rencontreront au cours de la huitième tournée de James Baker dans la région, à la mi octobre.

Les Palestiniens de l'OLP sont maintenant au centre des activités diplomatiques et il semble bien que le temps soit désormais révolu où certains pouvaient dire "l'OLP c'est fini". C'était pourtant il y a quelques mois à peine, avant, pendant et après la crise du Golfe. Aujourd'hui, la page est tournée. ■

S.S.

Nouveau en France

Les parkings entièrement automatiques

Qui n'a pas connu l'angoisse de descendre dans les parkings souterrains! Sans parler du risque de s'y faire voler son auto-radio! Les parkings entièrement automatiques vont bientôt se généraliser à Paris et dans les grandes villes françaises, pour le plus grand bonheur des automobilistes.

Deux de ces parkings existent déjà à Tours et à Cagnes-sur-Mer. Deux autres sont en projet à Paris.

Le principe en est simple: l'usager ou le propriétaire d'un véhicule présente sa carte à puce devant un lecteur électronique qui ouvre la porte d'entrée du parking. L'automobiliste place ensuite sa voiture dans ce sas sur un chariot de transbordement. Il sort alors "à pied", verrouille ses portières et abandonne sa voiture.

Un robot programmé prend la relève. Le sas se referme. Il s'agit d'un ascenseur dont la plate-forme descend, puis se positionne devant l'emplacement libre où le chariot guide la voiture. Celle-ci est en quelque sorte placée dans un tiroir.

En sens inverse, il suffit à l'utilisateur de faire lire à l'automate sa carte pour que celui-ci lui apporte son véhicule, dans le sens de la marche, en deux minutes environ.

Toutes les opérations sont surveillées par des agents de sécurité installés dans un poste de commandement, où une batterie d'écrans leur permet de vérifier simultanément la bonne fin des opérations et le fonctionnement correct des robots de plusieurs parkings. Personne ne pénètre dans le parking proprement dit, ce qui limite considérablement les risques de vol ou de vandalisme.

Ce type de parking est particulièrement adapté aux zones de forte densité urbaine ou aux secteurs difficiles d'accès puisque l'absence d'allée centrale de dégagement et de rampe de sortie permet de réduire au maximum l'emprise au sol de l'ouvrage.

Il se niche dans les espaces résiduels, dans une cour d'immeuble, sous un square ou même sous une rue et, donc, à proximité de ses usagers, là où un parc classique n'est pas envisageable. Qu'il soit de section cylindrique ou rectangulaire, ce parc demeure de petite taille et ne compte pas plus de deux cents places dans sa version la plus profonde. ■

La semaine de...

Suleiman Sweiss

La démocratisation en difficulté

L'OUVERTURE politique -que certains préfèrent appeler "démocratisation"- piétine. Les mesures qui limitaient l'exercice de certaines libertés ont certes été abrogées graduellement, mais on discerne difficilement, sur les deux dernières années écoulées, le progrès attendu dans les domaines économique et social.

Notre société continue de contourner les contradictions dont elle est prisonnière, le débat national tourne en rond. Les pratiques et les décisions gouvernementales ont assez souvent peu de parenté avec les paroles et les déclarations officielles, ou avec celles des autres pouvoirs.

Pour ne pas demeurer dans les généralités, prenons quelques exemples concrets, tirés de l'actualité de ces derniers mois:

1) On croyait être sur la voie d'un Etat de droit, institutionnalisé et stable, notamment après l'adoption de la Charte nationale en juin dernier. On a vu pourtant, ces derniers mois, comment des ministres adoptaient des mesures contraires à celles prises quelques mois plus tôt par d'autres ministres chargés des mêmes portefeuilles (dans les domaines de l'agriculture et de l'enseignement notamment). Dans un cas comme dans l'autre de grosses sommes d'argent avaient été engagées dans ces programmes, pour rien. Qui proteste? Qui juge? Qui nous indique au moins -à nous, citoyens- où est la bonne voie?

2) Il y a trois semaines, la commission parlementaire chargée des libertés publiques publiait son rapport sur la persistance des violations des droits humains, y compris la pratique de la torture sur les prisonniers politiques. Le ministre de l'intérieur attaquait immédiatement ce rapport et niait les faits rapportés. Les mass-médias ont diffusé largement la déclaration du ministre, mais ne l'ont pas fait pour le rapport signé par les députés. L'un d'eux a pourtant réuni une conférence de presse, peu après pour répliquer au ministre de l'intérieur. Encore une fois: qui a raison? Qui a tort? Y a-t-il une divergence de point de vue entre les pouvoirs législatif et exécutif sur le besoin urgent d'un respect des droits et libertés des citoyens après les pratiques arbitraires des années précédentes? Les recommandations de la commission parlementaire seront-elles concrétisées... ou bien faut-il s'attendre à ce que les violations continuent?

3) La crise économique s'aggrave dans le pays. Pourtant, le gouvernement continue d'ignorer les appels des députés et des forces politiques pour la réunion d'une conférence nationale qui permettrait d'étudier, ensemble, les moyens de sortir de la crise économique ou d'en atténuer tout au moins les effets.

4) Il y a quelques jours encore, le gouvernement a été remanié, quatre mois à peine après sa formation. Les ministres du "bloc islamique", introduits au gouvernement au début de l'année, n'y seront pas restés plus de cinq mois. Si l'on jette un coup d'œil sur l'histoire des cabinets jordaniens successifs, on remarque que la durée de vie d'un "conseil ministériel" moyen -comme on l'appelle ici- ne dépasse pas 1 an à 1 an et demi! On ne donne pas aux ministres assez de temps pour réaliser ne fût-ce que le dixième de leurs programmes, en général très ambitieux. Comment peut-on espérer réaliser quelque chose dans un pays du Tiers-Monde, dès lors que manque la stabilité des institutions et que règne l'instabilité des équipes ministérielles?

On se limite ici au strict cadre des problèmes de politique intérieure. Nous n'évoquons ni le processus de paix, ni le drame de nos compatriotes au Koweit, ni la poursuite de l'arraisonnement des bateaux par la marine américaine à Aqaba... Nous sommes conscients des fortes pressions qui s'exercent sur notre pays.

La démocratie est en principe une méthode civilisée et pacifique de résoudre les contradiction existant au sein de la société. Une méthode qui devrait tenir compte des intérêts et des droits des différents groupes sociaux. Or, le sentiment général est que "notre" démocratie n'a pas changé grand'chose à la vie des gens. Les riches continuent de s'enrichir et les pauvres de s'appauvrir, la situation générale se détériore.

Ne soyons pas injustes: les obstacles qui se dressent devant la démocratisation dans les pays du Tiers-Monde sont encore nombreux à la fin du XXème siècle. Elle nécessite de changer toute une mentalité et toute une culture qui font traditionnellement abstraction des contradictions existant au sein de la société. Un proverbe arabe illustre bien cette mentalité: "Il ne faut pas tuer le loup sous prétexte d'éviter de perdre ses moutons". On cherche toujours à contourner les problèmes sans se soucier d'y trouver des solutions.

La question clé est le développement de la société civile qui, plus forte, pourrait contrecarrer -et même faire avorter- les politiques ou les mesures anti-démocratiques des gouvernements en place. On n'a jamais vu encore, dans l'histoire, des groupes de pouvoir céder sans une pression quelconque. Il n'y a pas de raison que les sociétés arabes fassent exception.

Plus concrètement, le fond du problème réside dans les élites, l'intelligentsia et les partis politiques chez nous, qui se sont montrés incapables, jusqu'à ce jour, de dégager un programme susceptible d'attirer les citoyens vers ces partis.

Nous devons commencer par nous débarrasser de nos contradictions intellectuelles si nous voulons un jour nous débarrasser de nos contradictions politiques, économiques et sociales. ■

The Star's Guide TV

Programs on Jordan Television from 5-18 October

ENGLISH PROGRAM

SATURDAY

8:30 — Totally Hidden Video: More comic situations occurring when a lady applies for a job, a photographer tries to take the picture of a restless family and people listen to the horrifying sounds of a trapped cat.
9:00 — Encounter.
9:30 — Classical Music.
10:00 — News in English.
10:20 — Feature Film. "The Law and Jake Wade." Starring Robert Taylor, Richard Widmark and Patricia Owens: Jack, the marshal, manages to save his old pal from the noose because he owed him one, but the greed of the latter brings both of them within a hair-breadth of being killed.

SUNDAY

8:30 — The Golden Girls: Rose meets a university professor who invites her to a dance party where she finds it difficult to mingle with the crowd. So when invited again, she sends Blanch instead.
9:10 — Wish Me Luck.
10:00 — News in English.
10:20 — The Orchid House. "Return of the master" : War can have devastating psychological impact on soldiers. John comes back to his wife and family after being absent for so long with an utterly eccentric behavior.

MONDAY

8:30 — Hey Dad: Martin writes out his will and Betty, the secretary, co-signs the will verifying his signature. Meanwhile, Simon thinks that his father is going to give him a car on his birthday.
9:10 — The Midas Touch. A documentary program contrasting the world of money, stocks and big fortunes with the abject poverty, manipulation and corruption on the other side of capitalism.
10:00 — News in English.
10:20 — Gabriel's Fire: Ex-police officer, Gabriel, is paroled by attorney Kissler, who, in return, helps in discovering the murderer of his best friend who was killed in jail one day before Gabriel got out.

TUESDAY

8:30 — Who's the Boss: Angela, Tony, Sam and her boyfriend travel to Mexico. The way Sam and her boyfriend were acting angers Tony who does his best to break them up, and by so doing loses his chance of telling Angela how much he loved her.
9:10 — Our House. "The Stringtown treasure": David and his girlfriend find a map in a deserted house. They manage to decipher it and follow the directions, but what they find surprises them both.
10:00 — News in English.
10:20 — Columbo: "Now you see him" : Prying into other's business could be fatal, especially if it was something in their past they want to forget.



Coach on Friday at 8:30

WEDNESDAY

8:30 — The Family Man. "The boss's daughter" : Jack courts the daughter of his boss hoping to get a promotion, but then discovers it was wrong and decides to explain it to her. He gets promoted anyhow.
9:10 — Cosmos. "Heaven and Hell" : Saturn's temperature exceeds 380 degrees Celsius which makes it hell compared to the heavenly planet Earth on which we live. Therefore mankind must strive to keep it unpolluted and fit to live in.
10:00 — News in English.
10:20 — Equal Justice: District attorneys compete to win different cases of rape, breaking-and-entering and pornography.

THURSDAY

8:30 — The Simpsons.
9:10 — Beyond West World. A science fiction series about the evil professor who creates human-like robots and uses them to fulfil his vengeful whims.
10:00 — News in English.
10:20 — Movie of the week. "Positive I.D." A rape victim, Julie undergoes intensive treatment for a nervous break down. She then sets out to take the law into her own hands.

FRIDAY

8:30 — Coach.
9:10 — Part three of Shakespeare's tragedy play "Othello."
10:00 — News in English.
10:20 — W.I.O.U. : Colored people and minority groups demonstrate in front of the TV station. Meanwhile, an elephant dies in the studio and the disposal of its body poses a problem.

FRENCH PROGRAM

SATURDAY

6:00 — Le chevalier du labyrinthe. A game show program for children between 7 and 14 years of age. This program requires good culture and talent of the participants.
6:30 — Les chevaliers du Ciel. The adventures of the pilots Tanguy and Laverdure.
7:00 — News in French.
7:15 — A scientific program about the role of the scanner in medical diagnosis.

SUNDAY

5:30 — Les badaboks. A muppet show.
5:50 — A la découverte du 7ème continent "Saga Under Ice." An extraordinary adventure which unfolds in the most remote part of Iceland, beneath the ice cap on an active volcano, in the deepest sub-glacial abyss ever discovered.
6:15 — L'école des fans. This week's guest is Guy Tourvon.
7:00 — News in French.
7:15 — Carnet de notes. A classical-music program.

MONDAY

6:00 — Bing: An alien occupies the body of Dieudonné to study the human habits and falls in love with computers, in the process.
7:00 — News in French.
7:15 — The weekly sports magazine.

TUESDAY

6:00 — Clémentine. A cartoon series about the adventures of a small girl with her dog.
6:30 — Sixième gauche. The problem of cohabitation between Algerian and French families living in Paris in the same building.
7:00 — News in French.
7:15 — French Varieties.

WEDNESDAY

6:00 — Le monde est à vous. A variety program presented by Jacques Martin. This week's guest is the French singer Gilbert Bécaud.
7:00 — News in French.
7:15 — Azimut. "Kenya, les tentes tubuses." A program about insects in Kenya.

THURSDAY

6:00 — Lola et les sardines. A series for children: Lola, the little girl, inquires about some problems in her quarter and helps the police in solving some of them.
6:30 — Maguy.
7:00 — News in French.
7:15 — Cirque.

FRIDAY

5:30 — Le triple gagnant. A French detective series.
7:00 — News in French.
7:15 — French Varieties.

JEANE DIXON'S Your Horoscope

ARIES (21 March - 19 April): Vulnerable teenagers need encouragement, not criticism. Show that you are behind them all the way. A financial setback is temporary. Have more faith in yourself. Repay past favors.

TAURUS (20 April - 20 May): A business situation will turn around soon. The perfect job may be right under your nose. New deals produce the cash you need. Your social connections give you added clout. Do some entertaining.

GEMINI (21 May - 20 June): Athletes win awards and position themselves to receive college scholarships. An overly protective attitude can make offspring resentful and rebellious. Loosen the apron strings.

CANCER (21 June - 22 July): Keep your own counsel until an appointment becomes official. Otherwise, the tide could turn against you. Stay with any diet or exercise resolutions. Give serious thought to vacationing alone.

LEO (23 July - 22 August): Contracts signed now bring golden financial rewards. Act in your own best interest. Although business opportunities abound, you must take the initiative. The same is true in romance. Go for it!

VIRGO (23 August - 22 September): Romance has you walking on air. Your self-confidence returns. Make your decisions stick. The boss insists that you settle down and produce. Someone in school makes an important discovery. Be supportive.

LIBRA (23 September - 22 October): Be careful not to antagonize those you will need on your team. Straight answers will impress the people who really count. Business entertainment pays off handsomely. Reserve more time for family life.

SCORPIO (23 October - 21 November): Although your eccentricity drives some family members to distraction, it cheers and amuses others. Let your mate know the depth of your affection. A youngster looks to you for guidance. Be honest.

SAGITTARIUS (22 November - 21 December): Your sweetness is part of your power. Be tactful when dealing with someone who is difficult. A brilliant investment plan is offered for your consideration. Act immediately.

CAPRICORN (22 December - 19 January): Family members claim your attention. A long-distance trip may not live up to your expectations. Look on the bright side. Romance takes a giant step forward. You make all the right choices.

AQUARIUS (20 January - 18 February): Make the most of a fresh start. You will emerge victorious from a stormy encounter if you keep your temper in check. Mate raises questions that must be answered. Do not feel intimidated.

PISCES (19 February - 20 March): Good things are about to happen. Make the most of an unusual business opportunity. All forms of communication are favoured. Mixed economic trends could work in your favor. Romance is iffy.

THIS WEEK'S CHILDREN have total disregard for the chain of command and like to make their own rules. In school, these children may march to the beat of a different drummer. They can be flippant with teachers they do not like or respect. Insist on good manners at all times. Versatile and restless, those born this week are apt to have two or three careers. They act with such confidence that others follow their lead without asking too many questions. They can do quite well in politics if they learn to be diplomatic.

VIDEOVIEW

By Jay Bobbin

(Ratings for each film begin with an "asterisk" rating — one meaning "poor," four meaning "excellent" — followed by the Motion Picture Association of America rating, and then by a family-viewing guide, the key for which appears below.)

STARTING THIS WEEK: *"GOODFELLAS"* (Warner, $94.99): One of last year's most critically praised films, director Martin Scorsese's underworld saga earned a supporting Oscar for Joe Pesci as a chillingly effective killer. Ray Liotta has the central role as a young man who aspires to become a Mafia "wiseguy"; Robert De Niro, Lorraine Bracco and Paul Sorvino also are in the uniformly superb cast. **** (R; AS, P, GV)

FAMILY VIEWING GUIDE KEY: *AS, adult situations; N, nudity; P, profanity; V, violence; GV, particularly graphic violence.*

Around Town

Congratulations!!
Graduations, appointments, engagements, weddings, newborns, promotions, special awards, excellent achievements.....
Drop us a line and send a photo...we will run it free of charge in The Star's People and Events page.

● Her Majesty Queen Noor opened last Friday the second charitable bazaar organized by the Promising Hands Society. The proceeds of bazaar, held at the Jordan InterContinental Hotel, will go to human causes exercised by the society embodied in the offering of token aid to the needy, financially and otherwise. On display were handicrafts, confisseries, flower arrangements, textiles, bamboo-wood items and other silver and copper-made wares.

The bazaar was attended by the Chairperson of the Society HRH Princess Alia Al Faisal, HRH Princess Ghaida', a number of Arab and foreign ambassadors and a large audience.

● HRH Princess Basma patronized the celebration organized by the Prince Ali ben Al Hussein Club for the Deaf, in Irbid, last Sunday.

Princess Basma delivered a speech stressing on the role of society in enhancing the work done by the club to create better and productive citizens of the deaf people. Mr Qasem Abu Ein, the honorary president of the club, director of education in Irbid also delivered a speech in which he thanked the Princess for her continued support of the deaf, and mentioned her donating JD 5,000 for the establishment of a productive project to help utilize the abilities of this race of society.

At the end of the ceremony, Princess Basma distributed shields of appreciation on all parties who extended aid to this club.The ceremony was attended by the minister of youth, parliament members, the governor of Irbid and the president of both Yarmouk University and the University of Science and Technology.

● Indian ambassador to Jordan Mr K. Gajendra Singh held a reception last Thursday at his residence to celebrate the Indian Technical and Economic Cooperation (ITEC) day, which was launched by President Nehru in 1964. Jordan has made use of this program especially in the area of manpower training. Between 10 and 12 Jordanians have the chance to travel to India each year to receive intensive training in one of nine Indian institutes and centers in the areas of management, education, statistics, mass communication, milling and public administration. Jordanians who received training under this program were invited to the reception and shared their experiences with other invited guests.

● Minister of Information and Culture, acting Minister of Foreign Affairs Mr Khaled Al Karaki held a banquet, last Monday, in honor of the Algerian Ambassador to Jordan Mr Mohammad Al Sharif Kharroubi on the occasion of his transfer.

During the banquet, attended by a number of foreign ambassadors, Mr Karaki presented Mr Kharroubi with a souvenir in appreciation of his services in this country.

● The General Manager of ANZ Grindlays Bank in Jordan and Mrs Adnan Sallakh held a reception party on Monday at the Marriott Hotel in honor of the bank's Senior General Manager for Europe, South Asia, Middle East and Africa Mr Bevyn Ranford , Regional General Manager for the Middle East Mr Barry McCance, and their spouses. Guests included members of the Amman banking community, businessmen, and ANZ Grindlays clients and friends.

● Under the patronage of the Minister of Information and Culture Mr Khaled Al Karaki, an exhibition by the two Iraqi artists Mohammad Husseln Judi (copper engravement) and Saheb Al Yasseri (ceramics) was opened last Saturday at Gallery Alia. The exhibition will run until the 8th of October and is open daily from 10 am to 1:30 pm, and 4-7 pm.

● Mr Husam Musmar, president of the Jordan Pharmacists Association, patronized the dinner party held by Mithieb Haddad and Sons Company (agents of the Darich Company, in Germany).

The dinner party, held at the Jordan InterContinental Hotel, was a means to promoting the new product which is the stimulant hair shampoo Neril. The company has won a franchise to introduce this product locally especially since it proved its effectiveness, worldwide, in numerous cases of early hair loss for it provides the necessary environment for healthier hair to grow. The dinner was attended by a large audience of pharmacists and other concerned groups.

● The President of the Press Association Mr Hashem Khreisat held a dinner banquet Saturday at the Hussein Youth City to honor visiting members of the International Journalists Association, who were in Jordan to participate in a seminar on news coverage in times of war. Minister of Information Dr Khaled Al Karaki and Jordanian reporters and editors also attended the dinner.




Jordan and Arab Federation for Wrestling Mr Ibrahim Al [illegible] presented the Director General of the Plaza Hotel Mr [illegible] Cantwell with the shield of the federation in appreciation of [illegible] hosting the wrestling team during its training. The team will [illegible] participating in the international wrestling championship to be [illegible] in Bulgaria.


● His Majesty King Hussein paid a surprise visit to the Plaza Hotel this week to bid farewell to the Yemeni Prime Minister Haider Abu Bakr Al Attas, where he stayed during his 3-day visit to Jordan.


● The Plaza Hotel held last week a reception in honor of the executive secretaries of all diplomatic missions (embassies) and ministries. Attending the tea party were Brazilian, Finnish, Australian, Tunisian, British, Palestinian, Algerian, Turkish, Indonesian, Swiss, Swedish and Omani executive secretaries. Ministries secretaries attending were Justice, Labor, Information, Royal Court, Foreign and Protocol Office Secretary.


● A scene from a newly-released film "Point Break" starring KEANU REEVES and PATRICK SWAYZE and directed by KATHRYN BIGLOW. Described as the ultimate thrill, the film is about Johny Utah, a rogue who is always looking for the edge, always living in it. He joins the FBI and is transferred to Los Angeles where he meets his match; Bodhi, a mystical mastermind and a dangerous teacher. His most important lesson: If you want the ultimate thrill, you have to be prepared to pay the ultimate price.

Agenda

Exhibitions

■ At the Goethe Institute, the Jordan-German Forestry Project (GTZ), in cooperation with the Ministry of Agriculture/ Forestry Department and Lufthansa German Airlines there will be a display of pictures of nature and archaeological sites by the German photographer Sigrid Neubert. The pictures are of the "Goethe Forest" located between Shobak and Tafilah close to Dana village. The exhibition will be opened this Saturday at 10:30 and will run until 23 October.

■ At the French Cultural Center, there is an art exhibition by Mr Mohammad Al Jaloos. The exhibition was opened last Tuesday by the French ambassador to Jordan Mr Denis Bauchard.

Apple Day

■ Seminars, raffles and excitement presented by Ideal Systems Company on the occasion of their annual Apple Day. This will be on Friday the 4th of October. The event includes special prices on software, hardware, books and accessories, not to forget the Apple Cafe Trottoir where you can relax and enjoy a drink and food.

ROCK TRACKS

By Stephanie DuBois

Bruce Springsteen's former **E Street** drummer **Max Weinberg** says his new *"Scene of the Crime"* disk "is for people like myself who feel quite disenfranchised from what's happening in current mainstream rock. This record was made for people in their 30s and 40s, whose tastes are for the music of Bruce, **Sting** and **U2**." Weinberg, who produced and plays on the disk with his new group, **Killer Joe**, describes the album as "A *'Big Chill'* big band mix with some blues, boogie-woogie, rock and Texas blues in the style of (the late) **Stevie Ray Vaughan** and **Robert Cray**. If people went to high school in the '60s, they're going to like this album. It makes you remember what a real slow dance was." Since Springsteen disbanded the **E Street Band**, Weinberg has been busy starting his own record label, Hard Ticket Entertainment. "My hero is **Herb Alpert** (founder of A&M Records) and I've wanted to get into the business side of music since the early '80s." He adds that, "We are actively soliciting tapes and demos from all types of artists — rock, folk, Third World, etc. ... Our intent is to provide a home for artists who want to make music with less of an ear to mainstream rock radio."

Songstress **Deniece Williams** heads back into the studio in November to work on her next album — which she says will be "urban with a pop slant." Williams recently released her first children's album, *"Lullabies to Dreamland."* She says her 5-month-old son, Logan, was the inspiration for the Word/MCA disk. "Every night I'd sing him to sleep with this little song I made up to *'Brahm's Lullaby'* and my husband said, 'You really have a lot of fun with that, you should consider a children's album.'" Williams' "Lullabies" disk features nine new children's songs she penned and a musical version of the child's prayer *"Now I Lay Me Down To Sleep."* The album wasn't the only thing inspired by Logan. While carrying him, she says, "I could never find anything fun to wear that wasn't very expensive. So I designed my own things and now I'm going to mass market the line." Williams hopes to have her new maternity line in stores by November.

It looks like the queen of TV news will finally get to meet the Queen of Soul. *"Murphy Brown"* producers recently flew Murphy *(Candice Bergen)* to New York to shoot a segment of the show with the legendary **Aretha Franklin**. Followers of the show know that Murphy is an avid Franklin fan.

Internationally acclaimed singer/songwriter **Bruce Cockburn** just released *"Nothing But a Burning Light,"* his first studio effort since the 1989's *"Big Circumstance."* The Columbia disk (Cockburn's 20th) features an all-star cast of supporting players including **T-Bone Burnette, Booker T., Jim Keltner** and **Larry Kline**, with guest appearances by **Mark O'Connor** and **Jackson Browne**.

Biggest U.S. banks: The new lineup

After completion of recently announced mergers. Their assets:

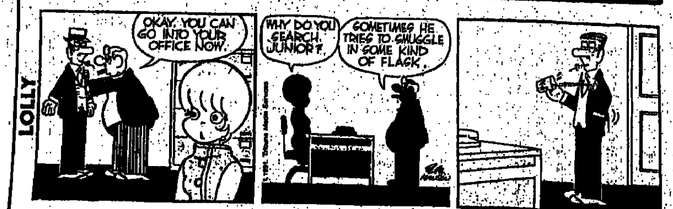
1.	Citicorp, New York	$217 billion
2.	Bank of America, San Francisco (proposed)	$190 billion
3.	Chemical Banking Corp., New York (proposed)	$135 billion
4.	Nations Bank, Charlotte, N.C. (proposed)	$118 billion
5.	Chase Manhattan Corp., New York	$98 billion
6.	J.P. Morgan & Co., New York	$93 billion
7.	Bankers Trust New York Corp., New York	$84 billion
8.	Wells Fargo & Co., San Francisco	$56 billion
9.	First Interstate Bancorp., Los Angeles	$51 billion
10.	First Chicago Corp., Chicago	$51 billion

SOURCE: News reports

THE HOME GAME

BY VIRGINIA TRUAX

NON-TOXIC CLEANER — Fill a quart spray bottle with water, add one or two tablespoons of white vinegar and you have an inexpensive and environmentally friendly cleaner for tile, mirrors and windows.



TOP POP ALBUMS

1. **Metallica,** *Metallica,* Elecktra
2. **Unforgettable,** *Natalie Cole,* Elektra
3. **Color Me Bad,** *C.M.B.,* Reprise
4. **CooleyHighHarmony,** *Boyz II Men,* Motown
5. **Luck of the Draw,** *Bonnie Raitt,* Capitol
6. **For Unlawful Carnal Knowledge,** *Van Halen,* Warner Bros.
7. **Fire Inside,** *Bob Seger & The Silver Bullet Band,* Capitol
8. **Gonna Make You Sweat,** *C&C Music Factory,* Columbia
9. **Time, Love and Tenderness,** *Michael Bolton,* Columbia
10. **Spellbound,** *Paula Abdul,* Virgin

TOP VIDEO RENTALS

1. **Home Alone,** *Macaulay Culkin, Joe Pesci,* FoxVideo (PG-1991)
2. **Sleeping With the Enemy,** *Julia Roberts, Patrick Bergin,* FoxVideo (PG-13-1990)
3. **King Ralph,** *John Goodman, Peter O'Toole,* MCA/Universal Home Video (PG-1991)
4. **Goodfellas,** *Robert De Niro, Joe Pesci,* Warner Home Video (R-1990)
5. **New Jack City,** *Wesley Snipes, Ice-T,* Warner Home Video (R-1991)
6. **Awakenings,** *Robert De Niro, Robin Williams,* RCA/Columbia Home Video (PG-13-1990)
7. **L.A. Story,** *Steve Martin, Victoria Tennant,* Live Home Video (PG-13-1991)
8. **Edward Scissorhands,** *Johnny Depp, Winona Ryder,* FoxVideo (PG-13-1990)
9. **Misery,** *Kathy Bates, James Caan,* Nelson Home Entertainment (R-1990)
10. **Kindergarten Cop,** *A. Schwarzenegger,* MCA/Universal (PG-13-1990)

TOP POP SINGLES

1. **I Adore Mi Amor,** *Color Me Bad,* Giant
2. **The Promise of a New Day,** *Paula Abdul,* Virgin
3. **Motowphilly,** *Boyz II Men,* Motown
4. **(Everything I Do) I Do It for You (From "Robin Hood"),** *Bryan Adams,* A&M
5. **Good Vibrations,** *Marky Mark & The Funky Bunch,* Interscope
6. **Crazy,** *Seal,* Warner Bros.
7. **Things That Make You Go Hmmmm...,** *C&C Music Factory/F. Williams,* Columbia
8. **Time, Love and Tenderness,** *Michael Bolton,* Columbia
9. **Too Many Walls,** *Cathy Dennis,* Polydor
10. **3 A.M. Eternal,** *The KLF,* Arista

CALORIE COUNTDOWN

BY SUSAN DUFF

Seasonal Fruits

With fall's official arrival, the fresh produce of summertime usually becomes less plentiful and more expensive in many areas. It's not easy for calorie-counters to give up all those just-picked, luscious peaches, melons and berries that we filled up on all summer long.

The temptation for many a dieter at this time of year is to satisfy his or her sweet tooth with sugary substitutes for the fruits that are no longer in season. You might be tempted to have a peach turnover, for example, instead of a fresh peach. In this case, the extra calories are way off the chart: Compare the 40 calories in a fresh peach to the 320 calories in the turnover! A wiser option is to find ways to enjoy the new season's offerings, as well as the year-round fruits we often neglect during the summer.

Citrus fruits offer sweet, delicious taste with low calories. The whole fruits offer extra fiber and fewer calories than the juices: a medium orange has about 65 calories (vs. about 100 calories for a cup of the juice); and half a grapefruit has just 45 calories (as opposed to about 100 calories per cup of grapefruit juice).

To glamorize your half-grapefruit and actually make it dessert-like, sprinkle with half a teaspoon cinnamon, and one teaspoon brown sugar, then brown the top under the broiler for three to four minutes. A delicious treat that costs you only 63 calories in all.

To dress up an orange, cut it into quarters and have it with an ounce of part-skim mozzarella cheese (80 calories) cut into four pieces. The sweet juicy taste of the orange is nicely complimented by the mild flavor and smooth, creamy texture of the cheese.

Another great way to combine winter fruit with cheese is to match up a fresh, ripe pear with very thinly sliced parmesan cheese. Slice a half-ounce of the cheese (60 calories) paper-thin and serve with a medium size pear (96 calories) for a nutritious and extravagant-tasting dessert at 155 calories.

If you're going to be pairing up seasonal fruits with cheese, the apple-/cheddar combination is a natural. Check labels to find a low-fat, "lite" cheddar that has 60 calories per ounce, cut the ounce into four pieces, and enjoy it with a cored and quartered apple (80 calories) for a delicious snack. (Melt the cheese over the apple quarters by popping them in the microwave for 45 seconds — really tasty!)

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COOKIN' GOOD

By Deanna Gugel

Hearty Country Omelet

5 eggs
4 T low-fat milk
1/2 cup cooked ham
1/8 cup green pepper, diced
1/8 cup green onion, diced
1/4 cup shredded cheese of your choice (but mild cheddar or colby works best)
1/4 cup mushrooms, sliced
2 small potatoes, cooked
4 T butter or margarine
1/4 tsp. dried rosemary
salt and pepper to taste

In a medium-sized bowl, combine four eggs and one egg white, milk and rosemary with a wire whisk. You may save the other egg yolk for use in another recipe or throw it away. If you prefer, you also may beat this mixture in a blender, but don't whip it so hard that it foams. Lightly sprinkle in salt and pepper. In a 9- to 10-inch skillet or omelet pan, melt 1 T butter over medium heat. Lift the pan and roll the butter evenly across the bottom of the pan. Add half the egg mixture, and heat on a low setting until it starts to set. Using a spatula, curl up the edges of the set mixture to force the still-liquid eggs to the center of the pan and to keep the eggs from burning. Cook until the center of the mixture is slightly set and the underside is golden. Then add half the ham, cheese, onions, green peppers and mushrooms. Fold over onto an oven-safe plate. Repeat the process for a second omelet while continuing to warm the first one on a heating plate or in a low oven. When omelets are complete, thinly slice cooked potatoes. Melt 2 T butter in a small pan and fry potatoes. Serve on the side of the omelet.

The Star
648-298

Would You Believe...

In most Moslem nations, the color of mourning is white, not black as is the case in the West.

* * *

All of the four Gospels of the Bible were originally written in Greek, not Hebrew or another language. Greek was the language of scholars at that time.

* * *

An Argentinian police inspector reportedly was the first to solve a murder by matching a fingerprint at the crime scene. Because of the work in the 1892 case, Argentina became the first country in the world to use fingerprinting as a means of criminal identification.

* * *

Amelia Bloomer is credited with proposing a shocking new type of dress for late 19th-century women in America. The attire consisted of a jacket, a skirt — and a pair of pants underneath, hence the nickname "bloomers."

* * *

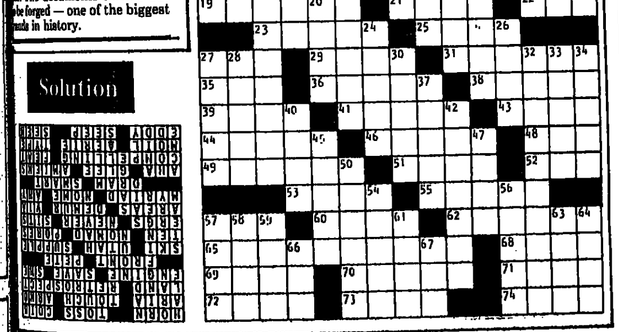
In 1983, a West German magazine paid almost $4 million for a 60-volume set of what was purported to be Adolf Hitler's diaries. The documents turned out to be forged — one of the biggest frauds in history.

★ CROSSWORD PUZZLE ★

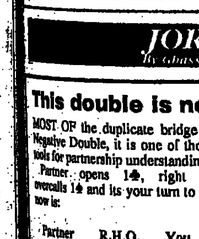
ACROSS
1 Antler
5 Flip
9 Metal money
13 Opera melody
14 Feel
15 River in Italy
16 Come ashore
17 Review of the past
19 Gasoline motor
21 Rescue
22 That woman
23 Facade
25 Seeger or Rose
27 Slalom
29 Beehive State
31 Pliant
35 Decimal number
36 Wanderer
38 Skin openings
39 Units of work
41 At no time
43 Perches
44 Spaces
46 Take exception
48 By way of
49 Immense number
51 City in Alaska
52 At all
53 Small drink
55 Mentally alert
57 Cry of surprise
60 Merriment
62 City in France
65 Forceful
68 Notable deed
69 Work hard
70 Mountaintop nest
71 Do office work
72 Whirlpool
73 Flow slowly
74 Appear

DOWN
1 Healthy
2 City in Algeria
3 Certain digit
4 Lowest point
5 Shoe tip
6 Baseball plays
7 Discarded metal
8 Thrusts
9 After night or white
10 Metallic minerals
11 Move slowly
12 Short letter
14 New Jersey city
18 Organization
20 Name word
24 Domestic
26 Grandiose work
27 Kind of bath
28 County in Ireland
30 Refuge
32 Sleuth
33 Admit
34 Student's paper
37 Populace in Greece
40 Spoke
42 Kind of sale
45 NCO
47 20 quires
50 City in Texas
54 Confused struggle
56 Fissures
57 Highest point
58 Car engine cover
59 Along with
61 Land of shamrocks
63 Back of the neck
64 Pipe part
66 Layer of cloth
67 Pinch

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Solution



JORDAN BRIDGE

By Ghassan Ghanem

This double is negative

MOST OF the duplicate bridge players use the Negative Double, it is one of the most important tools for partnership understanding.

Partner opens 1♣, right hand opponent overcalls 1♠ and its your turn to bid, the situation now is:

Partner	R.H.O.	You	L.H.O.
1♣	1♠	?	

What do you bid with the following hands:

a) ♠ 92 ♥ KQ953 ♦ A84 ♣ KJ6
b) ♠ 92 ♥ KQ953 ♦ 984 ♣ K76
c) ♠ 92 ♥ KQ95 ♦ A984 ♣ KJ6
d) ♠ 92 ♥ KQ95 ♦ 9842 ♣ K76
e) ♠ 92 ♥ KQ9532 ♦ 984 ♣ 76
f) ♠ 92 ♥ K93 ♦ A4 ♣ KQ8764

Hand (a): This is a natural bid of 2♥, you hold six or more points and five or more cards, the minimum requirements for a free bid at the two level from your side of the table and the bid is completely forcing for one round.

Hand (b): Now you don't hold enough points and you can not bid the heart suit at the two level despite of the five card. The solution is the Negative Double, a double from your side would show a heart suit but without enough points to bid it at the two level.

Hand (c): Now you have the points, but the length of the suit is not enough to bid it. The solution is still the Negative Double.

Hand (d): Here, both length and strength are not adequate to bid the suit, but the solution is still the Negative Double.

Hand (e): Pass now and bid hearts later after your partner automatic double.

Hand (f): Bid 2♠, a forcing notrump probe cue bid, with a spade stopper in partner's hand, your best spot is a notrump game.

What if partner opens 1♣ and R.H.O. bids 1♥? Your hands are:

a) ♠ KQ953 ♥ 92 ♦ 984 ♣ K76
b) ♠ K95 ♥ 92 ♦ 9842 ♣ K76
c) ♠ KQ95 ♥ 92 ♦ A84 ♣ KJ6

Hand (a) : Bid 1♠ to show five or more cards and six or more points.

Hand (b): Apply the Negative Double, your spade suit length is not enough to bid it after an overcall.

Hand (c): In spite of your opening hand, your proper bid is still a Negative Double.

What if both minors were bid by partner and R.H.O.? Then your Negative Double would show a major suits oriented hand.

In brief, a Negative Double shows the unbid major(s) with seven or more points and four or more cars.

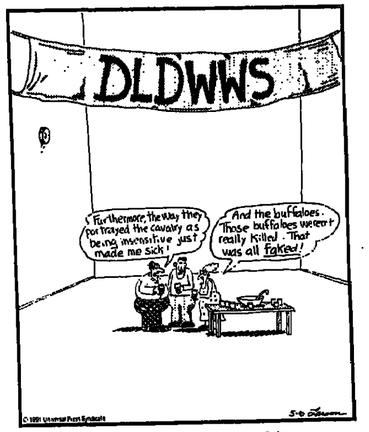
To bid the suit you need five cards, ten points or more at the two level and six points or more at the one level.

And remember, the double is negative because it is rarely convertible to penalty.

What if you want to penalize the overcaller? Please read last week's article.

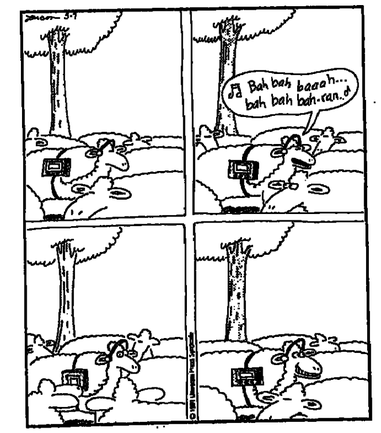
THE FAR SIDE

By GARY LARSON



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At the International meeting of the Didn't Like "Dances With Wolves" Society





Leona Helmsley of the Paleozoic